MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 MARCH 1981

Iran

Bani-Sadr Speech Controversy--A controversy has arisen over the attribution of responsibility for the violent disturbances that broke out during President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's 5 March speech at Tehran University. The Prime Ministry public relations office, in a 6 March statement broadcast by Tehran radio, said that by blaming an organization called the Prime Ministry special force, Bani-Sadr was guilty of a "sin." The statement denied the existence of any such organization and asserted that it would be "unnatural" for the president to be unaware that such an organization does not exist. On the same day, the radio broadcast a sermon by Tehran Friday Imam 'Ali Khamene'i in which he said that the disturbances were the work of "tiny groups" seeking to foment "artificial disorder." According to Khamene'i, they beat up and detained those whom they had "marked down for retribution," and they sent cards, names and pieces of paper to the rostrum where Bani-Sadr announced the names. A statement by the Islamic Republic Party, also carried by the radio, said the events were "stage-managed," and it criticized Bani-Sadr's "propaganda assault" on the party and other official and revolutionary institutions.

Tehran radio broadcast an 8 March speech to the Majlis by Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he called on Bani-Sadr to clarify the role played by the president's guard. Rafsanjani indicated that, in his opinion, it was they who were responsible for the violence. He also said that Bani-Sadr should make clear his stand vis-a-vis "minigroups" that have entered the political arena as Bani-Sadr supporters and are operating in a "calculated and organized manner." Rafsanjani welcomed recent warnings to Bani-Sadr by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni but said they were not "adequate." In other Tehran radio reports, similar criticisms of the president or his supporters were made by Qom Friday Imam Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and by theological teachers in the city, by the Tehran association of combatant clergy, by Deputy Interior Minister Mir Salim and by a group staging a sit-in at Tehran University. Tehran and Ahvaz radios reported that merchants in the two cities would close their bazaars on 8 March to protest the disturbances.

Several statements issued by President Bani-Sadr defended and explained his position and called for an impartial investigation into the disturbances during his Tehran University speech. In a 6 March statement, broadcast by Tehran radio, Bani-Sadr said that unless the "mammoth crowd" present at his speech goes and gives evidence, the culprits, encouraged by the prevailing climate in certain newspapers and the radio and television, may grow bolder and do more harm in the future. It would be sad, the president went on, if such people are allowed to hide behind institutions and go unpunished. As long as the "club" rules, he warned, differences will be aggravated. Another statement by Bani-Sadr, broadcast by the radio, revealed that an arrested member of the group that "created the incident" has claimed that his organization, which operates under different names, has 4,000 members.

Following Bani-Sadr's call for his 5 March audience to give evidence, 5,000 people assembled before the Justice Ministry on 7 March, AFP reported, where they shouted pro-Bani-Sadr slogans. According to another AFP report, they later clashed with revolution guards. AFP also reported that Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali told the Majlis that Bani-Sadr should be put on trial for betraying the Constitution and could be sacked for incompetence. However, monitored Tehran radio reports that Khalkhali's Majlis speech did not mention this, but noted that he called for clarification of the beatings at Tehran University. Meanwhile, an 8 March statement by Interior Minister Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, reported by Tehran radio, announced that at this "sensitive time" any march, demonstration or gathering is forbidden and will be subject to prosecution.

Tehran radio carried the texts of a 7 March exchange of messages between Qom Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegani and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in which the former complained of "recent dissent, clashes and reactionary activity." Referring to "sinister incidents at the university" on 5 March, Khomeyni declared that he has told the judicial authorities "to pursue the case, to identify and put on trial the criminals and instigators" and to convey the findings to him.

Lahijan Revolt--In his 8 March speech to the Majlis, broadcast by Tehran radio, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani alleged that "filthy minigroups" in Lahijan have declared independence, occupied the governor's office and established "people's committees and people's courts." The clandestine Radio Iran also reported widespread demonstrations in Lahijan, culminating on 5 March with a clash between guards and dissidents.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran Rejection of Cease-Fire--According to a statement by Supreme Defense Council spokesman 'Ali Khamene'i, broadcast by Tehran radio, the council met on 6 March and rejected the Islamic Conference good offices committee's cease-fire proposals. The rejection, Khamene'i said, was based on three points:

1) Iran refuses to renegotiate the Shatt al-'Arab issue because the 1975 Algiers accord already provides the basis of a settlement; 2) Iran insists that any agreement must provide for investigation of Iraq's "aggression" and procedures to "punish" the aggressor; 3) Iran cannot accept any lapse of time between a cease-fire and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces. The rejection came after an earlier Khamene'i statement at Tehran Friday prayers, broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service, that the peace proposal was "a reward for the aggressor regime" of Iraq.

Ramadan, Fahd Meeting--Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan visited Saudi Arabia on 6 March, INA reported, where he met with Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that he stressed to the Saudis Iraq's refusal to withdraw from "a single inch" of the Iranian territory it controls before the Iranian Government recognizes Iraq's "legitimate national and pan-Arab rights." He also stressed Iraq's willingness to cooperate with efforts to resolve the conflict on the basis of the principles of the Islamic Conference summit. According to Ramadan, Crown Prince Fahd expressed Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq's legitimate rights. In another statement to INA, Ramadan asserted that Iraq will continue its fight against Iran until its government recognizes Iraqi rights and stops interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Military Situation--In General Command communiques broadcast by INA over the weekend, Iraq claimed to have killed 575 Iranian troops, with the heaviest casualties occurring in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Susangerd regions. Tehran radio confirmed the intensified fighting in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area. It also claimed that an Iraqi missile hit Dezful on 6 March, "completely" disrupting communications, while on the same day Ilam suffered an Iraqi air raid that "totally destroyed" the main streets of the town. In a speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani revealed that Dezful, Lorestan, Ilam and Abadan had all been hit by Iraqi bombs and missiles which led to "grave destruction" in those areas.

Pakistani Airliner Hijacking

Citing BAKHTAR news agency, the Soviet news agency TASS reported that the hijacked Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Boeing 720 that had been in Kabul since 2 March was allowed to leave for an unknown destination on 8 March. After Pakistani authorities abruptly broke off talks with the hijackers, the hijackers, TASS said, demanded that the plane be refueled and allowed to take off immediately. Karachi radio reported that the plane landed at Damascus airport on 9 March and later added that Pakistan's ambassador in Syria and Syrian security authorities began talks with the hijackers through the airport control tower radio. According to AFP, the hijackers handed over a list of conditions for the release of their hostages, including the immediate release of members of the hijackers'

Al-Zulfiqar organization held in Pakistani prisons and an end to press criticism of the organization.

While still in Kabul the hijackers, who had threatened to blow up the airliner and its passengers unless about 90 Pakistani political prisoners were released, extended their deadline from 6 March until 7 March in response to an appeal by DRA Chairman Babrak Karmal, Kabul radio reported. The radio later said that the deadline was extended for another 24 hours at the request of the Iraqi ambassador to Afghanistan and the PLO representative in Kabul, who met with the hijackers.

Meanwhile, according to another Kabul radio report, on 6 March the hijackers shot one of the passengers, a Pakistani diplomat, who later died in a Kabul hospital. In a 6 March statement, reported by Karachi radio, the Pakistani Government blamed the Kabul authorities for his death, alleging that its negotiating team had not been allowed to establish direct contact with the hijackers and that the team's work had been obstructed by a "well-planned scheme." The statement added that in its radio contact with the hijackers, the team had sought clarification of the hijackers' demands and assured the hijackers that the government was willing to "review" the cases of those prisoners named "who are not charged with serious crimes." It further alleged that one of the hijackers admitted that his group is headed by Murtaza Bhutto, son of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and claimed that Bhutto met the leader of the hijackers after the plane landed in Kabul. The statement went on to accuse the Kabul authorities of colluding with the hijackers.

In a 7 March statement broadcast by Kabul radio, the Afghan Government denied obstructing Pakistan's efforts to contact the hijackers directly, refused to accept responsibility for the Pakistani diplomat's death and denied having any links with the hijackers. Karachi radio's English service said on 8 March that Pakistan had agreed to free 15 of the prisoners whose release the hijackers had demanded but that the government could not be "blackmailed" into releasing those who face "very serious criminal charges." However, Kabul radio reported that after further negotiations on the same day, in which the hijackers presented a Pakistani negotiator with a list of 43 prisoners whom they want released, the Pakistani Government instructed its negotiator to cut off his contacts with the hijackers and not to speak with them again.

Egypt

In a speech broadcast live by Cairo radio on 7 March to mark physicians day, President Anwar as-Sadat said that Egypt is waiting until the Israeli general elections are held before resuming the talks on Palestinian autonomy.

Israel

According to a 6 March Jerusalem radio report, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the U.S. decision to sell additional military equipment to Saudi Arabia is "worrisome" and may jeopardize the region's strategic balance. On the other hand, Foreign Ministry Director General David Qimhi told a Jerusalem radio interviewer on 7 March that because of the current U.S. administration's desire to curb Soviet expansion in the region, it will want to strengthen Saudi Arabia. "While this is obviously a danger from our point of view," Qimhi said, Israel will have to learn to live "in coexistence with Saudi Arabia as an ally of the United States." Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in a statement to IDF radio that if the Saudi-U.S. arms deal is implemented, Israel will be entitled to additional "means of security" from the United States.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL EXPERTS MEET IN OMAN

GF0810138 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 8 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Muscat--The head of the Oman's political department at the Foreign Ministry, Mr Salim Isma'il Suwayd, yesterday inaugurated the first session of the panel of experts of Gulf Cooperation Council.

The session was attended by the representatives of six Gulf Arab states: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The experts panel is preparing for the member-countries' foreign ministers convention which will open here tomorrow. The foreign ministers will approve the constitution of the council.

Sources said the aim of the council was to promote effective economic, political and security cooperation among the member-states, boosting the Gulf states' ability to resist upheavals.

HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETS UNDER 'ARAFAT

JN080849 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] The Higher Coordination Committee held a meeting yesterday under Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander of the Palestinian revolution forces. The committee reviewed the deteriorating situation in south Lebanon resulting from Israeli military escalation and the Israeli tools in the area. The committee studied the security situation in the area and adopted several security measures, particularly following the wave of explosive situations witnessed in several parts of the area and their threat to stability in the region. The committee reviewed the situation from all aspects.

VOP REPORTS FEDAYEEN GLIDER OPERATION IN GALILEE

JN071717 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] The Palestinian Liberation Front today issued a statement claiming responsibility for the operation carried out today in the Galilee in occupied Palestine, using two gliders.

The statement said that the unit of martyr pilot Lt Ghassan al-Kafi was able to cross over to the occupied homeland and carry out the operation of martyr Kamal Junblatt. The unit attacked the industrial area northeast of Haifa. It planted several explosives to the east of the industrial complex and clashed with the occupation forces in two areas in the Galilee. The Zionist authorities announced that two of the fedayeen were arrested. These sources claimed that the fedayeen were arrested after they had taken hostages in Tamra village.

The Palestinian Liberation Front statement also included some information about martyr Ghassan al-Kafi, after whom the unit was named. The martyr had attempted to cross into the occupied homeland using a balloon and sacrificed his life to save the lives of his companions after the balloon suffered a technical failure.

ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET WITH 'ARAFAT

JN0070847 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received yesterday evening the Italian parliamentary delegation which is currently visiting Lebanon to become acquainted with the general political situation and what is taking place in the area and in the Lebanese arena, particularly in the light of the escalating daily tension Israel is creating with its escalating aggression against southern Lebanon.

The head of the Italian parliamentary delegation said: We are aware of the Italian Government's stand, which delays official recognition of the PLO. As the representatives of the Christian Democratic Party, the Italian Social Democratic Party and the Italian Communist Party, the major parties in Italy, we, however, are exerting continuous pressure to achieve this objective which, according to our conviction, is a primary objective.

The Italian parliamentarian added: We are offering all our humble efforts to seek a just solution to your cause.

Brother Abu 'Ammar replied: You come here while the area is passing through one of its most serious stages. The dimensions of the U.S. military concentration in the area takes place for the first time since the Vietnam war, in addition to the serious and explosive situation resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of our territories and the premeditated and preplanned military escalation in which Israel is using the most sophisticated U.S. weapons, including weapons which are internationally banned. Perhaps you are following these daily Israeli aggressions, which are taking place on land, sea and by air and about which Israeli Chief of Staff General Rafael Eitan has said: This war will continue until one of the two parties is liquidated. We have not yet been liquidated.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: Even the Israeli Labor Party program speaks about this war as being active defensive operations across the border, not to mention the continued official terrorism against our people. If we take into consideration that 230,000 persons out of a total of 1.5 million persons have been subjected to interrogation, then--as was reported by the French investigation committee--one out of every two persons in the occupied territories has been imprisoned or subjected to interrogation. [figures as heard] This is the official terrorism.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: As for southern Lebanon, more than 40 percent of it has been destroyed by Israel. As for Sidon, more than 35 percent of this city has been destroyed, and 95 percent of the An-Nabatiyah camp has also been destroyed. In the latest raid they used bombs weighing more than 2,000 pounds against the civilians.

Brother Abu 'Ammar told the Italian parliamentary delegation that while Reagan speaks of the PLO as being a terrorist organization, he ignores Israeli terrorism and receives Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir, who is wanted by INTERPOL for his participation in the assassination of Count Bernadotte. Shamir is also visiting some European countries, including Italy. We have heard that he will meet with his holiness the pope. This causes us anxiety because it raises many questions. The Vatican, which does not deal in politics, banned Archbishop Capucci from participating in the At-Ta'if conference. Meanwhile, the pope will receive terrorist Shamir a few days from now, at a time when Israel is occupying Jerusalem and unifying it. What does this mean? This is undoubtedly a political stand by the Vatican.

Brother Abu 'Ammar explained to the Italian parliamentarians that the United States is waging a huge campaign against us and is calling our struggle against occupation and against those who threw us from our land as terrorism while it does not say the same thing about these official terrorism occupiers. This is an international distortion, and U.S. imperialism seeks to spread this distortion in the world, particularly in Europe.

Following the meeting Brother Abu 'Ammar hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the guest delegation.

Voice Support for PLO

JN080736 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] The Italian parliamentary delegation, comprising 13 parliamentarians and headed by (Valiano Solvestri), has left Beirut at the end of a 4-day visit to Lebanon, during which it met with several Lebanese and Palestinian officials and held talks on the situation in the area.

The delegation was seen off by PLO Political Department officials and the director of the PLO office in Rome.

In a statement at the airport the delegation head spoke about the results of the visit. He said: We have become acquainted with the current situation and have confirmed the conviction we had when we arrived to Lebanon. It is important for us to say that no solution in the area can be achieved unless the Palestinian and Lebanese issues are settled. It is important for us to say too that there will be no solution to the Middle East problem without the participation of the Palestinians, particularly the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Asked about their position on aggression against southern Lebanon, the delegation head said: We condemn Israeli aggression as we condemn all other aggression. We support the people's struggles for liberation. We support all peoples who struggle for freedom and peace.

On whether he believes that the proposed European initiative on the Middle East will succeed if the United States does not bless it, he said: I believe that Europe can push the United States toward a just solution to the Middle East cause, particularly the Palestinian and Lebanese causes. Europe has been too slow in adopting a stand on these two causes. As Italian parliamentarians, we call on and urge Europe to adopt a decisive stand on the Middle East issue.

The Italian delegation head concluded: We hope that next time when we come to Lebanon, and to Palestine too, the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples will have achieved their sovereignty, dignity and freedom on their soil and we will work to move Europe in this direction.

PALESTINIANS NOT AGAINST LEBANESE RECONCILIATION

JN070921 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0540 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has stated that the Palestinian revolution is not against national reconciliation in Lebanon and that it is ready to implement the agreements concluded with the Lebanese state on the bases that were proposed by the Lebanese nationalist movement.

Brother Abu Iyad was speaking at a rally in the Cinema Hilton in Sidon yesterday on the sixth anniversary of the martyrdom of Sidon's son Ma'ruf Sa'd. The rally was attended by several leaders of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement and a large crowd of Palestinian and Lebanese citizens.

KUWAIT

LEADERS ADDRESS NEW PARLIAMENT; SPEAKER ELECTED

LD091008 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0711 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Mar (KUNA)--Kuwait today celebrated the restoration of parliamentary life. Opening the first session of the new National Assembly, the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah called for the preservation of national unity and the setting aside of all disputes.

Addressing the 50 deputies who were elected to the assembly last month Shaykh Jabir said: "The aim of us all has been and, God willing, will always be to preserve Kuwait's independence, security, national unity and the realization of its hopes." "This," he added, "prompts us always to place these objectives above all controversies and remove all obstacles in the way of realizing them. This will always be the scale by which words and actions shall be measured."

The former National Assembly was suspended in August 1976 when the government of the time accused it of obstructing its work and sowing the seeds of division within the ranks of the Gulf states.

The new National Assembly was elected on 23 February and the government resigned on the following day. The Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah then formed his new 16-man Cabinet last Wednesday.

The amir of Kuwait added in his address to the assembly, which is the fifth assembly since the start of parliamentary life in Kuwait in 1963, that the regime has "deep" faith in the people's participation "despite all the perils involved and the critical conditions in the area."

After reiterating the importance of cooperation for the realization of Kuwait's aims, the amir warned that "differences will only lead to backwardness."

He pointed out that the oil-rich countries had internal, Arab and Islamic responsibilities adding: "In this, we constitute part of the Arabian Gulf countries which, in turn, are part of the Arab nation. It is our duty to carry out these responsibilities."

Another call for cooperation between the government and parliament was made by the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah who, in a speech he delivered after the speech of the amir of Kuwait, told the assembly that he will be submitting a number of proposals to the assembly to amend the constitution so that they may be adopted "in a manner that will serve the homeland's interest and strengthen our constitutional system and enable it to continue and help to realize a greater measure of cooperation among the autyorities."

In his speech Shaykh Sa'd also reviewed the achievements of the government during the period when the National Assembly was suspended.

He highlighted Kuwait's "extreme" anxiousness to develop its armed forces and modernize its weapons and military hardware to enable them to check any foreign aggression. He said, "One of the facts of the present age is that all the achievements of the peoples in their lands, all the building and construction they carry out and all the duties and commitments they undertake internationally will always be threatened unless supported by a strong shield of capability to reply to aggression, defend oneself and protect national willpower and independence."

The heir apparent then spoke of the economic situation. He said that since the mid-seventies Kuwait has witnessed a large-scale economic growth fed by increasing revenue from the rise in oil prices. He pointed out that actual government expenditure in the last fiscal year reached 2,293 million dinars, or about $8.7 billion. While in the fiscal year 1973-74, expenditure was only 338 million dinnars--equivalent to $2.018 million.

He added that the same period has witnessed "large" growth in the field of financial investment, organization and rationalization of electoral policy and the development of the finance and currency market.

Shaykh Sa'd then reviewed the government's measures in the field of improving social conditions and providing free services to citizens in the fields of health and education. He said that since 1975 the government has distributed more than 38,000 housing units among the citizens.

Speaking of foreign conditions Shaykh Sa'd affirmed Kuwait's "principled" faith in Arab and Islamic relations and its care for the preservation of stability in the Arabian Gulf and the prevention of foreign interference in its affairs.

On Arab issues Shaykh Sa'd declared that Kuwait's attitude "continues to be one of insistence on the complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories, including Jerusalem; complete recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to set up their independent state in their land under the leadership of the PLO."

Speaking of the Cooperation Council set up by the 6 Gulf Arab states last month he said, "As the past few years have witnessed divisions and numerous crises in the Arab position, they have also witnessed a clear rapprochement among the Arab Gulf countries--a rapprochement which we called for and participated in. Together with our brothers in the Gulf we have begun to translate this rapprochement into tangible effective practical steps."

Later, the National Assembly elected Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani, a former minister and former ambassador to Lebanon, as its speaker.

OMAN

INFORMATION MINISTER HAILS COOPERATION COUNCIL

LD082218 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Mar 81 EA

[Text] His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas, minister of information and youth affairs, has said that the sultanate regards the Gulf Cooperation Council as the (?appropriate) vehicle for cooperation and coordination among the six states to keep them out of the arena of international conflict and maintain them in a state of security and peace. He affirmed that the states in the region had become stronger since the beginning of the eighties than they had been in previous years. This strength had now given birth to the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In an interview published in the Qatari paper AR-RA'Y today, his excellency the minister expressed the hope that the Gulf Cooperation Council would form a sound and legal basis for relations among the states in the region and with all parties to define danger points and ways of confronting them [word indistinct] economically and socially. His excellency welcomed Gulf meetings on various matters, stressing that such meetings would give life to cooperation [word indistinct] among the states in this region.

On the sultanate's efforts to preserve the security of the Strait of Hormuz, his excellency said that the sultanate had in 1979 presented its (?ideas) about maintaining the security of that vital sea lane in the interests of the states of the region. However, the idea had received no response at the time [words indistinct].

On the continuing Iraq-Iran war and the efforts of the Islamic good offices committee to mediate to end the war, his excellency the minister of information and youth affairs voiced the hope that the mission would succeed in finding a just and fair solution which would preserve the national rights of the two sides and bring prosperity and stability to the Gulf region. He pointed out that the efforts of the good offices committee constituted a fundamental ground for solving the dispute between Iraq and Iran.

His excellency the minister expressed regret that Iran had not availed itself of the opportunity presented to it by the Islamic summit at At-Ta'if.

On his country's relations with the Gulf states and those of the Arabian Peninsula, His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas said the sultanate had been striving since 1970 to establish normal and fraternal relations with those states, especially with the Democratic Republic of Yemen, but the latter had shown no positive readiness to establish such relations. He described Aden's role [words indistinct] because of its agreements with the USSR.

OFFICIAL REITERATES REJECTION OF USSR PROPOSALS

JN081300 Doha ONA in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Muscat, 8 Mar (ONA)--Yusuf al-'Alawi, under secretary of the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has stated that the task of the Gulf Cooperation Council is to achieve economic, trade and social cooperation among Gulf countries and to open new horizons for joint Arab action.

The Omani official added that the relations that exist between the countries in the Gulf area and the rest of the world are based on mutual respect and the rejection of all forms of foreign intervention. He stressed that any joint action the countries in the area carry out is not directed against anyone but only aims at achieving prosperity, stability and security for all the countries in the area.

In an interview with the Oamni magazine AL-'AQIDAH today, the Omani official reiterated his country's rejection of the Brezhnev proposals on the Gulf area. He said that these proposals will provide the Soviet Union with the opportunity to interfere in the area's domestic affairs.

The Omani official stressed that the Gulf countries are capable of confronting any attempt at intervention in their affairs and of protecting the area. Al-'Alawi strongly criticized the Soviet Union and accused it of being hostile to his country.

Al-'Alawi denied Soviet allegations that Oman has asked China to provide it with military expertise and said these allegations are groundless.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war Al-'Alawi expressed the hope that an end will be put to this war and warned that its continuation would lead to serious consequences and intervention by foreign parties.

SAUDI ARABIA

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON GULF SECURITY

LD080956 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0905 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Jidda, 8 Mar (SPA)--Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has affirmed that the Gulf area is in no need of custodianship and that its people are capable of defending it.

In an interview with the Saudi paper AN-NADWAH, published here today, the minister called for keeping the area out of international conflict. He added: We are a nation that does not believe in pacts, axes and international blocs. The better the area is kept out of international conflicts, the more secure it will be, he affirmed.

We are aware that security in the Gulf is of importance to the whole world, he said, but if the world wants to help us to ensure the safety of the area, then it must work to keep it out of international conflicts. Western leaders must understand that we fully mean what we say. We will not accept the stationing of any forces in our territory. We have previously refused to turn our countries into military bases for anyone.

Yamani added: We have traditional friendships and relations with the various countries, but this should not be taken to mean that we welcome interference in our internal affairs.

On the statements made by the British prime minister concerning a Rapid Deployment Force for the Gulf area, Dr Yamani said: We did not pay much attention to this matter.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH MALDIVES

LD071304 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Jidda, 7 Mar (SPA)--Saudi Arabia and the Republic of the Maldives have decided to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level.

The Foreign Ministry statement issued today says: Desirous to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in various spheres, the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and of the Republic of the Maldives have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at embassy level.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH ICELAND

LD071106 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Jidda, 7 Mar (SPA)--The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iceland have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the embassy level.

The statement by the Foreign Ministry today on the matter says: To strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in various spheres the governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iceland have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the embassy level.

IRAQI PRESIDENT'S ENVOY ARRIVES IN JIDDA

JN061748 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Jidda, 6 Mar (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, arrived here this evening as President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here tonight with Prince Fahd, Saudi crown prince and deputy prime minister. A review was made of the current Arab situation in general and the situation on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland in particular.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and on the Saudi side by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Education Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stated that during his meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, he conveyed an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia dealing with the Arab situation in general and the situation on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland in particular. He said that he discussed with His Highness Prince Fahd the third Islamic Conference summit resolutions pertaining to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, stressing the necessity of acting in accordance with the general principles of these resolutions.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted Iraq's clear and frank stand based on the Iraqi Army's nonwithdrawal from a single inch of the Iranian territory which it controls prior to the Iranian regime's full and definite recognition of Iraq's legitimate national and pan-Arab rights.

He explained that Iraq is ready to cooperate with any sincere and honest efforts, including the efforts of the good offices committee, on the basis of the principles of the third Islamic Conference summit, which stipulate the agreement to a cease-fire by both sides, the holding of negotiations regarding the total recognition of Iraq's legitimate national and pan-Arab rights and the affirmation of the principle of nonintervention in domestic affairs.

Concluding his statement Ramadan said that during the meeting His Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz asserted Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq's legitimate rights, which are considered to be unrelinquishable Arab rights.

6 Mar Departure

LD062201 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Summary] Jidda, 6 Mar (SPA)--Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, together with his delegation, left Jidda for home after a brief visit to the kingdom.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN SEEKS STEADFASTNESS FRONT SUMMIT IN ADEN

LD061135 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources have told AL-MAJALLAH that members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front fear what they call "the big stick policy" to which President Reagan is threatening to resort and expect a "U.S. onslaught" against some of the front states which include Syria, Libya, Algeria, the PDRY and the PLO.

The sources said that PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad discussed these "fears" during his recent visit to the front states and suggested holding a front summit meeting in Aden at the earliest possible date in order to agree on a united stand in the face of any potential developments. Damascus has approved holding the summit in principle and so has Libya, despite the fact that previously it objected to holding a summit of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. As for the PLO, it did not object and went with the majority. Algerian President Bendjedid was the only one who expressed reservations on holding this summit, the reason being that he wants to avoid the policy of creating an Arab axis. This is in addition to the fact that Algeria is a member of the Arab reconciliation committee, which also includes Saudi Arabia and the Arab League Secretariat.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad succeeded in obtaining the approval of all concerned on holding a conference of front foreign ministers this month. The conference will decide on a date for the summit as well as on its agenda.

AL-MAJALLAH has also learned that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's efforts also included the achievement of a reconciliation between Syria and Ethiopia and the reaching of agreement on restoring diplomatic representation between the two countries. His efforts also included creating "some sort of coordination" between the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and Syria. The well-informed Arab quarters believe that Moscow is encouraging these efforts and moves.

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD PRAISES SOVIET GULF PROPOSALS

LD052156 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, Presidium chairman of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has expressed his high appreciation for the prposals, mentioned in the report of the report of the CPSU Central Committee, which were presented to the 26th Congress of the party, about turning the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and security.

In a statement he made in this respect he said the report contained a number of constructive initiatives which aim at ensuring the necessary circumstances for solving many international questions, among them the proposals concerning the halting of the arms race.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added that the report presented by Comrade Leonid Brezhnev showed very clearly the colossal achievements made by the Soviet people, led by the CPSU, in various fields for the sake of the continued building of socialism. Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also praised other initiatives contained in the report on a number of current issues.

Brother 'Ali Nasir also made a statement on the report presented by Comrade Tikhonov, USSR Council of Ministers chairman, about the basic trends of economic and social development in the Soviet Union for 1981-1985, in which he praised the successes achieved by the Soviet people in comprehensive development. He said we consider these successes and their continued quantitative and qualitative expansion and development as a reinforcement of the world revolutionary process and the world socialist system.

The (?confrontation) of the process proved and is proving, in the course of time, that means future happiness and prosperity cannot be achieved and [word indistinct] except under socialism and its social system. What happened and is happening in the Soviet Union is a shining example of this truth.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Soviet workers and their Communist Party. He said at the same time we express our great gratitude for the efforts being made by the Soviets assigned to work in economic and social development projects in Democratic Yemen. He stressed the continued development of our economic relations on the basis of the agreements signed between our two countries.

EGYPT WELCOMES U.S. MILITARY AID TO SAUDI ARABIA

NC072128 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo 7 Mar (MENA)--Commenting on the U.S. decision to sell arms to Saudi Arabia, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has said that Egypt welcomes any military support to any Arab state and any strengthening of their defense capabilities to confront any military aggression, because the defense of the area must come from the states in the area, not from outside. The responsible source added: This basic principle was laid down in 1950 when Egypt signed the Arab defense treaty, by which it continues to abide.

U.S. DECISION ON LAW OF SEA TERMED DISAPPOINTING

NC062154 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Mar 81

[News analysis on the law of the sea negotiations by radio political affairs editor Violette Fu'ad]

[Text] The U.S. decision to reconsider its stand regarding the law of the sea has come when the 150 states participating in the Law of the Sea Conference are preparing to hold the 10th session of the conference in New York this coming Monday. The U.S. decision has raised a feeling of disappointment among the participating states, who were preparing in their new session to arrive at a final agreement on the Law of the Sea Treaty. The negotiations over the treaty have been continuing since 1973 with the aim of regulating the rights of littoral states to exploit the seabed's mineral resources.

The new proposed treaty is the first international agreement which aims at regulating the relations of ownership among the littoral states and which gives the right to exploit seabed resources to various nations and to major industrial enterprises through a legitimate plan within the framework of the United Nations. The most difficult problem that faced the treaty negotiators over the last 7 years was the question over the conditions defining seabed mineral extraction operations and the distribution of the proceeds from these operations among the states and industrial enterprises. Perhaps what increased the difficulty of these negotiatons was the move to claim parts of the oceans which contain mineral resources, particularly copper and cobalt, which are of strategic importance, in view of the constantly rising prices of minerals which have been destructively extracted from the earth for over 3 decades.

PAPER ADVOCATES MULTINATIONAL FORCE TO DEFEND GULF

LD050955 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Confronting the Soviets in the Gulf and Africa"]

[Excerpts] British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher has called on the Western alliance states to confront what she called Soviet aggression in the Arab Gulf region and Africa. Thatcher launched a strong attack on the Soviet Union, saying that there is a need for a new defense policy that goes beyond the Atlantic alliance in order to preserve the interests of the Western alliance and prevent the Soviet Union from dominating the area in its own interest. She asserted that Britain will stand at the U.S. side in confronting the Soviet threat and that it is ready to participate with military units in a multinational rapid deployment force.

It was observed that Margaret Thatcher spoke with enthusiasm and frankness, which goes to show that the Western countries are in the process of adopting a new strategic plan to firmly confront the Soviet Union and that they are serious about implementing this plan in order to preserve their interests and defend them against Soviet encroachments, as the British prime minister said. This is what Egypt has called for ever since the Soviet threat began to move toward the Gulf, the oil countries in particular, following the Soviet armed invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 and the use of Afghanistan as a springboard for reaching what are known as warm seas.

Egypt believes that the United States is the power that can deter Soviet interference and protect the area against this danger that threatens the U.S.' vital interests. While Egypt has called for the presence of U.S. forces in order to confront Soviet interference, it also believes that an Arab presence is fundamental to this confrontation. For this reason Egypt from the first hastened to declare its readiness to send its forces to defend any Gulf country that asks it to do so. Egypt did not make this offer because it has interests to defend or because it wants to secure benefits for itself from such a move but because it wanted to establish an Arab presence in the face of the Soviet intervention threatening the area and wanted this presence to be fundamental to protecting the area since it is an Arab area.

The Gulf countries did not believe this when Egypt made its call or when it reiterated it several times. Instead of organizing themselves in the light of this fact they misguidedly rejected the call. The Soviet threat has opened their eyes to the painful truth at last and shown that it is futile to resist this threat with empty slogans.

If the Western countries have agreed with the United States on establishing a joint military force to defend the Gulf and if these countries are endeavoring to speed up the creation of such force we hope that the council for cooperation among the Gulf countries will strengthen the Arab presence in the face of the Soviet threat. Let these countries rest assured that Egypt still adheres to its position of shouldering its Arab responsibility.

'ALI VIEWS U.S., AREA RELATIONS, PEACE EFFORTS

LD061607 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Mar 81 p 7

[Interview given to Ahmad Nafi' by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali--place and date not given]

[Text] [Question] What are the results of the preliminary contacts between Egypt and the new American administration? Does Washington have a specific plan to advance the peace process on the grounds that the United States is a full partner in the process of achieving a comprehensive and just settlement?

[Answer] Our contacts with the new American administration began before it assumed power officially on 20 January. That was during Vice President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington in December last year. Since then we have been maintaining contact through our embassy in Washington and the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. The Egyptian ambassador in Washington has had several exceedingly encouraging meetings with top officials in the State Department and elsewhere. The new U.S. secretary of state, Alexander Haig, is scheduled to visit Cairo during the first week in April. This visit will give us the opportunity to discuss the situation in the area and the progress of the peace process on the grounds that the United States is a full partner in it. That will be preparatory to the president's forthcoming visit to Washington, in the summer, to meet with President Reagan. Should there be any need for more consultations at a high level in the period between our meeting with the U.S. secretary of state and the bilateral summit meeting such consultations would certainly take place.

As for the existence of a specific American plan to give impetus to the peace process, we must take into consideration the fact that the new administration has been in power only a few weeks and it has domestic and strategic problems which have to be tackled. Furthermore, in order for new plans to be presented, the third party, Israel, must be in a position to make a decision regarding these plans and to participate in their implementation--a factor which is lacking at present because the Israeli Government will be fighting the general elections in June.

However, the vital thing in this connection is that the American administration has declared its commitment to participate fully in the peace process and to the continuation of the Camp David agreements as the framework for moving toward a settlement. We undoubtedly welcome any new ideas within this framework.

[Question] The new American administration has explained that it does not favor the resumption of the autonomy talks during the present phase. This coincides with Egypt's view that it is useless to continue the negotiations unless the Israeli concept changes. In your view, when is such a change expected to occur and what are the circumstances that could lead to it?

[Answer] First of all I would like to explain a minor procedural point, namely that the talks between us and Israel and the United States for the achievement of full autonomy for the Palestinians according to the provisions of the Camp David framework have not been cut off. The talks are continuing on the technical level. A round of talks was held in Tel Aviv last month and, prior to that, a round of talks was held in Cairo in December. The true fact is that these talks are going round in a vicious circle. We and the United States continue to adhere to the stand we announced during and after the Camp David talks. We continue to have a clear-cut understanding of the agreement reached at Camp David on the need to grant the Palestinians full autonomy to enable them to determine their own fate. Israel, however, interprets the provisions of the peace framework differently. Regrettably, it is also pursuing an erroneous policy in the West Bank and Gaza that is in no way conducive to creating a suitable atmosphere for the talks. The Egyptian-Israeli talks are not taking place in a void and Egypt cannot in practice disregard the attempts of the other side to impose a new fait accompli, which is contrary to the objectives of the negotiations and which hampers their progress, at the negotiating table. Nor can the Egyptian negotiator ignore Israel's practices in the occupied territory and its serious policy of setting up settlements, expropriating land and taking other measures not conductive to building confidence, not to mention the law annexing east Jerusalem which has hindered the negotiating process.

In view of all this and in order to break out of this situation President as-Sadat called for a triparties summit meeting to eliminate the obstacles in the way of peace and to secure a true interpretation of the peace framework agreed in September 1978. It is our estimation that such a conference, which will be held after the meeting between Presidents as-Sadat and Reagan in the summer and the meeting between the U.S. President and the Israeli prime minister, can create suitable circumstances for the resumption of the talks that will realize our aim of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in an effective manner.

[Question] Egypt's forceful support for the European role, manifested during President as-Sadat's visit to the European Parliament, is viewed by some as auspicious. If this is correct, what, in your view, are the considerations which prompted favoring European participation in the efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement?

[Answer] Egypt has always called on Europe to play a more positive role in the search for a peaceful settlement to the situation in the Middle East. For this reason, the Egyptian stance which the president expressed in his speech in Luxembourg on European participation in the peace process was only an affirmation of Egypt's incessant call. If before the president's speech some people liked to interpret Egypt's stance as not being in favor of Europe playing a more positive role, easing their interpretation on our frank demand that the European role be consistent with and complementary to the peace efforts made in the area since November 1977, then the president's speech catagorically confirmed the importance of the European initiative. The importance of European participation in the peace process stems from several significant factors.

One such factor is that Europe has strong ties with the Arab world and Israel--ties which give its role special weight. Europe also has special allied relations with the United States and this gives its position definite weight in Washington. Undoubtedly, the European role is increasingly important during the present phase, in which the new U.S. administration is preparing a plan for political action in the area and in which a new government is likely to emerge in Israel.

[Question] Is there agreement on coordination between Egypt and the European group during the group's attempts to crystallize its initiative regarding the Middle East, especially since the European group sees that its initiative will be complementary to the course Egypt has set for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace?

[Answer] Coordination between us and the European group as a whole is continuing. The best proof of this is the important talks which took place in Cairo in the past few weeks when the British, Italian and West German foreign ministers visited Cairo, in addition to Chancellor Kreisky's visit and the Egyptian-French summit meeting. If we add to this the Netherlands foreign minister's expected visit and my visits, God willing, to Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland next month, I believe that I do not need to confirm our interest in coordination.

[Question] Does such coordination or Egypt's intensive moves in Europe dispense with Egypt's participation in the Arab-European dialogue during the present phase?

[Answer] I would like to make two basic points clear here: The first point is that a European-Arab dialogue without Egypt's participation will not have the required importance and value. Maybe the European Parliament's decision in this connection is enough to spare me making any comments.

The second point is that Egypt is actually engaged in a constant dialogue with Europe. We have not waited for an agreement to be reached on the framework of the Arab-European dialogue before presenting our views to Europe on the various subjects. Allow me to add that no Arab side or group can present the Arab view and the aspirations of the Palestinian people to the European governments and communities as objectively as Egypt has done in its contacts with the European governments and as the Egyptian president has done in his speech to the representatives of the European peoples.

[Question] What is your assessment of the general Arab situation in the light of the new developments, including Europe's mediation efforts now that it has felt that it is able to play such a role?

[Answer] The Arab situation truly causes profound sadness. I do not think that we have ever experienced a situation in which Arab relations have deteriorated to such an extent and Arab interests have been so abused. The strange thing is that this situation is deteriorating further while the dangers threatening the area are intensifying. The serious precedents set by the armed occupation of Afghanistan and the Iraqi-Iranian war expose the Gulf area and the eastern flank of the Arab nation to grave dangers. A new link emerges every day in the hostile chain surrounding the Arab world. Sudan is subjected to suspect adventures in which Libya is playing the role of cat's-paw of foreign powers in the area. In the west of the Arab area energies are being wasted in a conflict which some quarters do not wish to end or be settled.

Egypt cannot disregard all these factors which make up the picture of the Arab situation. We are a principal and genuine part of the Arab homeland. Of necessity, there is mutual interaction between Egypt, as the heart and mind of this homeland, and the rest of the parts. Our policy is of necessity based on an appreciation of the extreme importance of the prevalence of security, peace and tranquility in the area in order to spare the energies which are being wasted and to ward off the dangers that are threatening the area.

Egypt has spared no effort in its attempt to mend the rift in the Arab world, yet it is being subjected to a ferocious unjust campaign to distort its historical efforts for the sake of Arabism and the cause of the Palestinian people.

This, however, will not weaken us. We are sure that the Arab people are aware of what is happening in the Arab arena and are capable of differentiating between earnest efforts to achieve Arab aims and the raising of hollow slogans.

In any case, we believe that the Arab differences are transient and will disappear sooner or later, just as other Arab differences have disappeared--differences which have become one of the characteristics of Arab relations and which we hope will vanish so as to enable the Arab nation to stand on the threshold of the age and dedicate its capabilities to achieving the desired progress for its people. Out of its genuine loyalty to its Arab and Islamic affiliation, Egypt will keep its mind and heart open to every sincere effort to unite the Arab ranks on an objective basis seeking Arab interests.

[Question] Consultations took place recently among the Gulf states for the establishment of a Gulf organization for coordination among these states in the various fields. What is Egypt's stance on this new gathering?

[Answer] There is no doubt that Egypt is following with interest what is happening in the Gulf area, due to its appreciation of the importance of this area and the dangers confronting it and due to its feeling of responsibility toward it. Egypt followed the meeting of the foreign ministers of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE in Riyadh on 4 February and their agreement to establish a council for cooperation among the Gulf Arab states, the structure of which will be finalized at a meeting to be held in Muscat on 8 March, so that these states will coordinate among themselves in the various fields.

Egypt's policy has always been and continues to be one of encouraging everything that will consolidate true cooperation among the Arab states and eliminate the Arab differences so that these states can confront the foreign dangers and designs that are threatening them. Since Egypt has declared its commitment to defend every Arab state that is exposed to foreign dangers that threaten the entire area, it naturally follows that we welcome any coordination among the Arab states whose purpose is to strengthen their security and safety and which, in the final analysis, is consistent with the comprehensive Arab efforts based on sincerity and objectivity in serving the Arab aims.

OFFICIALS DENY REPORT ON ISRAELI PRESENCE IN EGYPT

LD061659 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Cairo--In his first statement following his appointment to his new post Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah denied that there are Israeli forces in Egypt and that such forces will take part in maneuvers with Egyptian forces. In a statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the defense minister added: This has not happened and will never happen.

London's FINANCIAL TIMES said last week that certain Israeli forces are concentrated in various locations in Egypt and that their presence is shrouded with strict secrecy. But the paper did not disclose the task of these forces, their number or the level of their armament. A senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry source denounced these reports, saying they were mere lies.

NO ISRAELI COOPERATION ON AREA SECURITY PLANNED

NC071002 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0923 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has emphasized that cooperation with Israel regarding the security of the region is not being contemplated. He said that the establishment of an international emergency or multinational force to assume responsibility for security between Egypt and Israel is not linked in any way with anything other than the Camp David agreements and, more precisely, with the provisions of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

In a statement published by AL-AHRAM today Dr Ghali said the instructions and signals on the formation of this force are connected with Egyptian and Israeli security considerations within the framework of the peace agreement and its military supplements.

Concerning the region's security, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that neither regional or nonregional cooperation with Israel is being contemplated. He added that what is more useful and important is to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem, to restore the rights of the Palestinian people and to sign peace agreements between Israel and Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

'ALI VIEWS VISIT BY DAYAN, OTHER ISRAELI FIGURES

NC091138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed that the Egyptian Government will not invite any Israeli official who will run for the [Israeli] elections to visit Cairo until these elections are over, because "we adopt a neutral stand toward the candidates." This came in a statement published in the newspaper MAY today, in which Kamal Hasan 'Ali comments on former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's visit to Cairo, which begins today. It should be recalled that Moshe Dayan's visit is at the invitation of the magazine OCTOBER.

BRIEFS

JOURNALISTS UNION ELECTIONS--Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)--Chairman of the Board of Directors of the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawad, Chief Editor of AKHBAR AL-YAWM and MAY newspapers Ibrahim Sa'dah and Mahmud Sami, 'Abduh Mubashir and Lutfi al-Khuli of AL-AHRAM newspaper and Ahmad Farghali of AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper were elected members of the Journalists Union's Council in the election that was held Friday to renew the membership of half of the council's members. [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Mar 81 NC]

ENVOY IN KABUL SPEAKS WITH HIJACKERS 7 MAR

JN081919 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Islamabad, 8 Mar (INA)--The Iraqi Government has informed Pakistan that it will do its best to ensure the safety of the passengers of the Pakistani plane that landed at Kabul airport last Monday. An INA correspondent in Islamabad said that the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has informed the Pakistani Government that it had requested the Iraqi ambassador in Kabul, Fathi Husayn 'Ali, to contact the Afghan Government on this issue. Iraq's assurance to exert efforts for the safety of the 115 passengers on board of the Pakistani plane in Kabul airport came in response to a request from the Pakistani Government.

The Iraqi ambassador last night held talks with the hijackers of the Pakistani plane at Kabul airport. The talks resulted in the postponement by 24 hours of the ultimatum issued by the kidnappers demanding the release of 92 prisoners in Pakistan. More talks with the kidnappers will be held. The Iraqi diplomat was the only one permitted direct contact with the hijackers.

ENVOY RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA, COMMENTS

JN070914 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother, His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, returned here early today following a short visit to Saudi Arabia. During his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Ramadan conveyed an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Khalid. The message deals with the developments in the situation in the Arab area and with the situation on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland in particular.

In a statement to INA upon his arrival, the first deputy prime minister said that he asserted to the brothers in Saudi Arabia Iraq's clear and frank stand on the conflict with the Persian regime. He added that this stand is based on nonwithdrawal from any inch of the territory presently under the control of the Iraqi Armed Forces unless this regime recognizes the full legitimate, pan-Arab and national rights of Iraq. He also asserted Iraq's readiness to cooperate with any effort exerted to solve the conflict in accordance with the principles previously declared by Iraq.

Ramadan explained that His Highness Crown Prince Fahd has asserted Saudi Arabia's full support for Iraq's legitimate rights and its basic principles on solving its conflict with Iran, for Iraq is claiming well-known and clear Arab and Iraqi rights and for it does not covet Iranian land. His highness also asserted that Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq's just demands constitutes support for the Arab right to full sovereignty and nonintervention in domestic affairs. These are human principles approved by all the international charters and norms.

On the situation in Arabistan, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq supports the sons of Arabistan and their rights. He added: We cannot but support the just rights of Arabs everywhere, whether in Arabistan or in any other Arab spot. He said that this stand emanates from the principles of the party's and revolution's policy and constitutes the basic feature of the Ba'th Party principles.

In a statement prior to his departure from Jidda, Ramadan reiterated Iraq's commitment to its full, pan-Arab and national rights. He said: Our armed forces will continue to strike at the racist Persian enemy and to occupy other cities if the need arises until the Persian regime recognizes Iraq's rights and full sovereignty over its land and waters and until it stops intervening in Iraq's domestic affairs.

Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, accompanied Ramadan on his visit to Saudi Arabia.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 6-8 MAR

JN061644 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)--A total of 143 of the racist Persian enemy were killed in battles waged by the Iraqi forces in the operational sectors last night and today. Our valiant forces destroyed five enemy infantry positions, one tank, one armored personnel carrier, six vehicles, three field guns, two missile launchers and four observation posts. This came in Communique No 267 issued by the Armed Forces General Command a short while ago. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 267 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With a strong drive and high morale, our valiant armed forces continue to deal blows to the ignorant racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors. The result of their activities last night and today was as follows:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Six were killed and one field gun and two vehicles were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Two were killed and one tank was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. One observation post was destroyed in the Sumar region.
D. Eight were killed and one field gun, one missile launcher and one observation post were destroyed in front of our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. An enemy troop concentration was sighted in the Mehran region. Our units engaged it with artillery and mortars and forced it to flee, killing 21. One field gun and one missile launcher were destroyed in the same region.
F. Four were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Dezful region.
G. Our units engaged enemy concentrations with various weapons in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, inflicting the following losses: 68 killed and 1 fuel tank and 4 infantry positions destroyed. Our units also engaged an enemy force in the same region and forced it to flee, leaving behind 14 dead.
H. Five were killed and one armored personnel carrier was destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Our units engaged enemy personnel and positions with various weapons in the Abadan region, inflicting the following losses: 15 dead; 1 infantry position; 2 vehicles, one carrying personnel and the second hardware; and 1 observation post destroyed.
Thus, total known enemy losses are: 143 dead and 5 infantry positions, 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 6 vehicles, 3 field guns of various calibers, 2 missile launchers and 4 observation posts destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Six martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment : Two vehicles and one field gun were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 March 1981

Communique No 268

JN071705 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)--During their military operations last night and today, our armed forces inflicted heavy losses on the racist Persian enemy troops. Communique No 268 issued a short while ago by the Armed Forces General Command said that 292 enemy troops were killed and 5 infantry positions, 4 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers, 4 vehicles, 7 field guns of various caliber, 1 rocket launcher, 2 excavators and 2 observation posts were destroyed.

It added that our losses in all sectors were 12 martyrs and the damage of 5 tanks, 2 personnel carriers, 6 vehicles, 1 mortar and 1 rocket launcher. The following is the text of Communique No 268 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continued to pound heavily the Magian Persian enemy, inflicting on him massive losses in equipment and lives. The following are the results of the activities carried out in the operations sectors last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forward units clashed with an enemy force consisting of infantry and armor in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. A fierce battle took place with all available weapons. The enemy sustained 203 dead; the bodies were abandoned on the battlefield. The enemy also sustained many wounded as well as the destruction of four tanks and two vehicles.
B. Eight were killed and one rocket launcher was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. Our units opened all sorts of fire on enemy concentrations in the Mehran region and forced the enemy to flee, leaving behind 41 dead. One gun was also destroyed in the same region.
D. One field gun and one observation post were destroyed in the Shush region.
E. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region. Our units opened fire and forced the enemy to flee, leaving behind 18 dead, 2 armored personnel carriers and 1 vehicle. Our units also destroyed four infantry positions in the same region.
F. Our forces engaged the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Abadan region with artillery and mortar fire, killing 22 and destroying 1 infantry position, 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 vehicle carrying ammunition, 5 field guns, 2 excavators and 1 observation post.
G. Our effective forces carried out a night raid on Khark Island, north of the Arab Gulf, Dezful and Ilam.

Accordingly, total known enemy losses amount to 292 dead, 5 infantry positions, 4 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers, 4 vehicles, 7 field guns of various calibers, 1 rocket launcher, 2 excavators and 2 observation posts.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 12 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Five tanks, two personnel carriers, six vehicles, one mortar and one rocket launcher were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 March 1981

Communique No 269

JN081632 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)--In their operations in the past 24 hours, the Iraqi forces inflicted heavy losses in lives on the Persian enemy forces, estimated at 140 dead. A military communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command today said that the Iraqi forces destroyed six infantry positions, two tanks, eight vehicles, six field guns of various calibers, two rocket launchers, and five observation posts. The communique also said that Iraqi planes today raided enemy positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region, in the western part of the central sector, scoring direct hits and returning safely to their bases. The Iraqi forces lost 14 martyrs, and 2 personnel carriers were damaged. The text of the communique is as follows:

Communique No 269 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our units engaged enemy concentrations in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, killing 33 and destroying 3 infantry positions, 1 tank and 1 observation post.
B. One dead in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. Four were killed and one vehicle loaded with hardware and one observation post were destroyed in front of our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Eight were killed and three infantry positions, one field gun and one observation post were destroyed in the Mehran region.
E. One of our units clashed with an enemy force in the Dezful region and forced it to flee after suffering 15 killed and destruction of 1 field gun.
F. Our units engaged with various weapons enemy positions and concentrations in the Shush region, inflicting the following losses: 20 dead and 2 field guns and 2 observation posts destroyed.
G. One of our units clashed with an enemy force in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region and forced it to withdraw after suffering 20 killed and destruction of 1 vehicle loaded with hardware. One of our combat patrols raided enemy positions in the same region, killing eight and returning safely to base.
H. A total of 15 dead and 1 vehicle destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Our units engaged enemy positions and concentrations in the Abadan region with various weapons, killing 16 and destroying 1 tank, 5 vehicles, 2 field guns, and 2 rocket launchers.
J. Our planes today raided enemy positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region, scoring direct hits and returning safely to their bases.

Thus, total known enemy losses are: 140 dead, 6 infantry positions, 2 tanks, 8 vehicles, 6 field guns of various calibers, 2 rocket launchers, and 5 observation posts.

II. Our losses:

A. Personnel: 14 martyrs in all sectors.
B. Equipment: Two personnel carriers damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 March 1981

PAPER ATTACKS IRAN'S REFUSAL OF MEDIATION

JN071101 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)--The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH holds the Tehran rulers fully responsible for any obstruction or abortion of the current international efforts to find a peaceful settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

In its editorial today the paper says that the ignorant Persian clique is acting totally in reverse. It is holding the tail end of the solution rather than the very beginning. It is seeking a solution at the expense of Iraq's rights and sovereignty and not at the expense of its ambitions, expansionist objectives and evil intentions. This clique wants Iraq to give up its victories and gains and to withdraw from its positions without obtaining a single legal and practical guarantee against aggressions and interventions in its domestic affairs.

The paper asserts that although Iraq is entitled to ward off the aggression against its land, cities and waters, although Iraq is acting objectively and reasonably and has gained the confidence and respect of the international community and although Iraq is claiming its legitimate, pan-Arab and national rights which are recognized from the international, historical and legal points of view, the Persian side is acting as if it is the one which has the right. This clique is ignoring its racist, aggressive and arrogant behavior, is ignoring its violation of international laws and charters and is ignoring its exploitative and negative stand on all international mediation efforts, and yet it is setting unobjective and unacceptable conditions.

The paper asserts that the Tehran rulers have deliberately impeded the international efforts during the past 6 months, wagering every time on possible changes in the balance of military power or on the possibility of success in penetrating the Iraqi forces' combat lines and creating an enclave in one of the operations sectors or on the possibility of success in one of their offensive counterattacks.

The paper adds: This losing wager is obviously still being entertained by the Iranian leaders, or by some of them. That is why they deal with the mediation efforts with the same mentality and with the same reverse logic and aggressive spirit.

In conclusion the paper says: While the Iranian rulers continue to reject negotiations, while they proceed with their aggression and while they continue to turn cold shoulders to all the sincere Iraqi and international calls, there will be no justifications for withdrawal or for a cease-fire from one side; namely, Iraq. It says that sound logic in dealing with the Iranian stand is the only available option; namely, to force the Persians to kneel, to put an end to their stubborness and aggressions and to wrest a final and full recognition of our rights in the Iraqi land and waters and in the three Arab islands.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI LEAVES FOR UK 9 MAR

JN090848 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA)--Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi left Baghdad this morning for London at the head of a delegation on an official visit of several days to the United Kingdom at the invitation of his counterpart, Lord Carrington.

In a statement to INA Dr Hammadi said that he will hold talks with British officials on several issues of mutual interest. He added that he will concentrate on the Arab-Israeli dispute and bilateral relations. He also said that there is a good opportunity to develop relations between the two countries based on mutual interests, particularly in the economic field. He said that Iraq is ready to build its future relations with the United Kingdom. Dr Hammadi expressed his hope that this visit would be useful and start new development in the relations between the two countries in the various fields.

The minister is accompanied by a delegation comprising Ahmad Husayn, Foreign Minister under secretary, and several senior officials in the ministry.

VOICE OF HOPE CARRIES HADDAD SPEECH TO LEBANESE

NC081242 [Editorial Report] Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic at 1000 GMT on 8 March carries a 55-minute live or recorded speech by Maj Sa'd Haddad, commander of free Lebanon, addressed to the Lebanese people.

Haddad begins his address by referring to the sectarian system in Lebanon and notes how the Muslims openly try to protect their interests. He goes on to accuse Muslim state officials and leaders of working to promote the welfare of the Muslim community. Haddad then wonders why the Christian leaders do not do the same, pointing out that already the Christians, in areas he says are under the occupation of the Syrians and Palestinians, are immigrating.

Haddad stresses that the existence of free Lebanon in the south is the only guarantee for the existence of all Lebanon. He says that if free Lebanon goes, all Lebanon goes: Syria will annex Lebanon. He says that "the existence of free Lebanon is a basic necessity for the continued existence of all Lebanon. It is the only guarantee for all Lebanon."

Haddad then defends Israel's assistance to free Lebanon, saying Israel wants a democratic and free Lebanon on its northern border.

He says that what applies to the Christian community also applies to the Shi'ite community. He says: "We and the Shi'ites are in the same boat, facing the same danger. They must not listen to the one who calls himself the leader of the Amal movement because he is an agent who sold the members of his country for the cheapest price. If you want to be saved, listen to us and extend your hand to us because we and you are the sons of the south, and the sons of Lebanon."

Haddad goes on to attack the Palestinian and Syrian presence in Lebanon and calls on President Sarkis to defend Lebanon against the occupiers and not to beg anyone.

He concludes by calling on the Lebanese to make sacrifices, forget materialism and secondary disputes, and unite and work to expel the Syrian-Palestinian occupier.

BA'TH PARTY MEMBER ASSASSINATED IN BEIRUT

JN051539 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Beirut, 5 Mar (INA)--The treacherous anti-Arab gangs, backed by suspect and Zionist organs, perpetrated another crime here last night by assassinating Ahmad Qasim Zughayb, member of the health committee of the Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon. A statement issued by the party regional command said that the treacherous anti-Arab gangs assassinated Comrade Ahmad Qasim Zughayb when he was driving his car to his office in Burj Abu Haydar in western Beirut.

Martyr Ahmad Qasim Zughayb was born in Yunin, Ba'labakk in 1951. He joined the Ba'th Party in 1973 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting and management in 1978.

OIL PUMPING AGREEMENT WITH IRAQ INITIALED

NC080731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] At 0815 today Oil and Industry Ministry Muhammad Yusuf Baydun returned to Beirut from Baghdad via Amman after holding talks with officials in charge of oil affairs on the question of resuming oil pumping to Tripoli.

In a statement at the airport Baydun said that he initialed a 10-year agreement with the Iraqi side. This draft agreement, he said, will be submitted to the competent authorities for completion of legal proceedings.

Minister Baydun expects the oil pumping to Tripoli refinery to resume 3 weeks after the ratification of the agreement.

HIJACKED PAKISTANI PLANE LANDS AT DAMASCUS 9 MAR

JN090937 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0920 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus--The hijacked Pakistani airliner landed at Damascus International Airport at dawn today. It came from Kabul. The competent Syrian authorities approved the landing of the airliner at the request of the Pakistani Embassy in Damascus and for humanitarian reasons since the airliner ran out of fuel, a matter that could have led to a catastrophe if the airliner had not been permitted to land at the Damascus International Airport.

A list of the hijackers' demands for the release of their hostages, who number well over 120 persons, was handed over by the hijackers to the competent Syrian authorities to be conveyed to the Pakistani Government. The Syrian authorities conveyed the list of the hijackers' demands to representatives of the Pakistani Embassy in Damascus.

Dialogue With Hijackers

PA090345 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0303 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Beirut, 9 Mar (EFE)--Syrian security officials and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus have established a dialogue with the hijackers of the Pakistani Airlines (PIA) plane. Apparently the PA Boeing 720 is being refueled, which seems to indicate that the Syrian capital is only a stop on the journey of the aircraft hijacked Monday in Pakistan.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM CPSU CONGRESS

JN061657 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and his party delegation returned to Damascus today after participating in the meetings of the 26th CPSU Congress. Comrade al-Ahmar conveyed a message from Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, to the CPSU Congress and delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The delegation had a number of meetings with the leaders of socialist countries, the communist, socialist and workers parties and the liberation movements of the world which participated in the CPSU congress.

During these meetings Comrade al-Ahmar highlighted Syrian achievements under the leadership of the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad. He explained the aspects of the national and pan-Arab battle waged by the masses of the Syrian people against imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies. He also exchanged views on the political situation in various regions of the world. He also discussed relations between the Ba'th Party and those parties, whose points of view were in agreement on the various issues which were discussed.

The Ba'th Party delegation also held meetings with the representatives of the CPSU to review the relations of cooperation between the two parties and to exchange views on the developments in the Middle East and the world.

Comrade al-Ahmar and his delegation were received at the airport by a number of comrade members of the regional and national commands of the party, party members and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

AL-BA'TH PRAISES USSR'S MIDEAST PROPOSAL

LD061151 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 25 Feb 81 p 2

[Turki Saqr Article: "The Road to Just Peace"]

[Text] It is natural for a superpower such as the Soviet Union to have a clear and frank view of such an important and sensitive issue as the Middle East issue. This is because this issue--and this has become perceptible--is one of the primary issues that affect the security not only of the area but of the world in general. The Soviet Union showed its renewed interest in the Middle East issue the day before yesterday, when Leonid Brezhnev read the Central Committee report to the 26th CPSU Congress, considerable part of which was dedicated to this issue, expressing the Soviet Union's readiness to contribute to the establishment of lasting and just peace in the Middle East.

In fact, not only have the U.S. attempts to impose the Camp David policy and exclude the other international parties from participating in finding a comprehensive and just settlement to the Middle East issue hindered the efforts to achieve the desired genuine peace in the area, but the United States, through these efforts, has also sought to dominate the area completely. Therefore, the slogan that a solution can only be achieved through Washington and As-Sadat's statement that America holds 99 percent of the cards for a solution embody, in fact, a major part of the conspiracy against the process of establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the area, replacing it with a bogus peace concealing America's plans to place the Arab homeland under its umbrella by imposing capitulation and planting military bases in the area.

The CPSU Central Committee report's suggestion that an honest collective search for a comprehensive settlement on a programmatic, just basis can be achieved within the framework of an international conference specially convened for this purpose signifies rejection of the suspect unilateral course which the United States was pursued with regard to the Middle East issue and which has produced the As-Sadat capitulation deal, split the Arab ranks and given imperialism the opportunity to return to the area.

Naturally, in order to straighten things out, the devastating results of the Camp David policy must first be eliminated and a return made to the crux of the issue, which definitely means that genuine peace in the area cannot be achieved unless Israel withdraws from all the occuped Arab territories and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people are restored.

It is obvious that a genuine peace requires the participation of the international parties which have a true desire to achieve it. As for those who oppose the participation of [other] states in the establishment of a just peace, they want America to continue to have a free hand in dealing with the area's issues in a manner that ensures its imperialist interests and the Zionist entity's security which, according to Reagan's recent letter to Menahem Begin, continues to be the supreme aim in the U.S. view. This explains the Camp David parties' reactions to Brezhnev's proposal of convening an international conference on the Middle East and of returning to an honest, collective search for a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East crisis. As soon as this proposal was announced, the Egyptian regime raised its previous slogan warning of the Soviet danger and of the imposition of trusteeship on the PLO. In the same vein, the Zionist entity described this proposal as a reversion to the vicious circle, which means putting the issue back into a storage colder than Siberia, as the Israeli newspaper AL-ANBA' has put it.

Irrespective of these statements and allegations which no longer deceive anyone, we view the Soviet Union, through all its stands of support for our Arab cause, as comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad said in his cable to Leonid Brezhnev, as a pioneering state in the field of support for the peoples' struggle against colonialism and imperialism and all the forces allied with them, particularly the Zionist, reactionary and racist forces.

OFFICIALS REACT TO U.S. SALE OF F-15 EQUIPMENT

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

TA061717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Excerpts] This evening the United States officially announced it will sell offensive equipment for the F-15 planes to Saudi Arabia.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem stated this evening that the U.S. sale of arms to Saudi Arabia is very worrisome and enhances the danger to Israel. The sale of these arms, just as with the transfer of other war means to industrialized countries [as heard] increases the armaments race in the Middle East to dimensions that may jeopardize the strategic balance in the region.

Cabinet Session Planned

TA081430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] The Cabinet is to meet, probably this week, for a special session to discuss its reaction to the U.S.-Saudi arms deal. Minister Ari'el Sharon today requested that the government decide its stand on this matter because our friends in the United States do not know how they are to act. Minister Burg asked at the cabinet session whether a reaction would be forthcoming to the remarks by the Egyptian president that he would not renew the autonomy talks until after the elections in Israel.

Shamir Repeats Objection

TA081804 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Israel has repeated its objection to the supply of sophisticated arms by the United States to Saudi Arabia. These arms will not help Saudi Arabia's defense, Yitzhaq Shamir said upon returning from a trip abroad:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Sophisticated aircraft will not defend Saudi Arabia against the dangers the current regime is facing, just as the F-14 aircraft did not help the Iranian regime.

We explained our position to members of Congress and the U.S. media. All of them know what the Israeli view is but the U.S. administration has its own considerations and we cannot force decisions upon it. Even though we have a certain degree of influence and there is compliance with our demands, the United States nevertheless has other interests in the region and it decides--according to its own considerations--what to do. [end recording]

David Qimhi Interviewed

TA071033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Interview of Foreign Ministry Director General David Qimhi by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on "Weekly Newsreel" program; time and place not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Qimhi] We in the Foreign Ministry and in our embassy in Washington carried out a diplomatic situation assessment, as should in fact be done with respect to each and every issue, for without a pragmatic, substantive, professional situation appraisal you cannot conduct policy.

In the wake of our assessment, we reached the conclusion that our prospects for preventing this arms sale [to Saudi Arabia] were not very great--and even that is an exaggeration: in fact, we estimated that our prospects were virtually negligible. This is because the new balance of forces in the U.S. Senate are such that, if you take into consideration the arguments the new administration can present to the Senate, all the prospects are that this deal will gain a majority.

[Schiffer] And those arguments will be weighty ones: the President's prestige is facing its first test, the heads of the administration will whisper to the senators, and the strengthening of Saudi Arabia is consistent with the Reagan administration's basic strategetic conception. Israel, says David Qimhi, need not accept this reasoning but the [Israeli] Government must take into consideration the negative results that will ensue if Israel comes out totally against the administration on this subject.

[Qimhi] The fact that we will lose in such a campaign will show that support for us is somewhat shallow and this is certainly not to our benefit. Secondly, to get into a total confrontation with the new administration just as it is setting out on its path would certainly not be beneficial for us. This would prevent us from exerting influence on the administration in matters which are no less important: on the administration's entire strategic conception regarding the Middle East.

[Schiffer] Political circles in Jerusalem point to indications that a new era has begun in Israeli-U.S. relations: Secretary of State Haig did not press his Israeli counterpart on the settlements issue, or on the east Jerusalem issue, and Washington has not initiated any declarations condemning Israel recently for its actions in the territories. This, then, is a new era, for which one can find additional credence in the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. It appears that the reports emanating from Hayarkon Street--where the embassy is located--are not causing the same reverberations in Washington as they did under the previous administration.

However, some observers believe that the holiday in Israeli-U.S. relations will come to an end after the U.S. secretary of state meets with heads of Arab countries during his visit to the region.

[Qimhi] I want to be cautious; I do not want to paint an entirely rosy picture. I think that the new administration presents many prospects and many dangers. The main dangers stem from the fact that the new administration has placed a great deal of emphasis--and justly so, from its point of view--on the need to curb further Soviet expansion in this region. For many years the main prop in this region for the effort to prevent the Soviet Union's encroachment was Iran. Today, after what happened, the United States tends to regard Saudi Arabia as this main prop. This means that for strategic reasons--and not because of the politics of oil, as many people think, but for purely strategic reasons--the United States will want to strengthen Saudi Arabia, and this is obviously a danger from our point ov view. So we shall have to make our way very carefully so as not get into a total confrontation with the new administration over this issue. This is a difficult matter. We shall have to find our way and live, as it were, in coexistence with Saudi Arabia as an ally of the United States.

[Schiffer] However, David Qimhi also speaks of the prospects, which did not exist previously, for tightening relations with the United States. The Foreign Ministry's director general stresses the fact that the new administration has dissociated itself from the PLO and from pro-Soviet Arab regimes. And most important, it has emerged that President Reagan is ready to talk more intensively with Israel than was the case in the past. Our relations, Ronald Reagan told Yitzhaq Shamir, are not based only on our long-standing friendship but on common interests.

MA'ARIV Criticism

TA081540 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Mar 81 p 5

[Moshe Zaq Commentary: "Two Errors"]

[Excerpt] David Qimhi, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, is a sensible person with considerable political experience in working behind the scenes. However, when he allowed himself to be interviewed on Israeli radio's "Weekly Newsreel" he made a blunder.

Qimhi had strong reasons for not confronting the Reagan administration on the issues of the sale of offensive U.S. weapons to Saudi Arabia. He has presented a sober assessment of the situation but when he disclosed that the Foreign Ministry and the Israeli Embassy in Washington believe that Israel has no chance of enlisting a majority of congressmen against the deal, he virtually jeopardized the arguments he had himself raised against granting the Saudis a victory. It was none other than himself who accorded this victory to the Saudis, saying that Israel had withdrawn, as it were, because of its fear of a Saudi political victory. Yet this is not so. Despite the changes in the Senate composition, there is a chance of a majority in the Senate voting against the deal, or, at least for reducing its size.

All those who argue that Israel has no change of foiling the Saudi deal or imposing difficulties on its realization actually weaken Israel's chances of getting a compensation for the upsetting of the balance of power in the Gulf of Elat. Not only is this untrue, it is also unwise.

The Saudi pressure for the acquisition of offensive arms from the United States and for the cancellation of limitations on the use of this equipment on F-15 aircraft, is first and foremost an attempt to flex its muscles at Israel and to prove that the new U.S. administration does not heed the commitments given to Israel by the former administration.

Israel must not recoil and then say that it is doing so because it stands no chance in this struggle.

The chance exists. Israel now has the option to fight or to make little of the political significance of the Saudi pressure. David Qimhi committed a blunder when he declared that we did not stand a chance.

QIMHI REVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ACTIVITIES

TA082009 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1820 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Tel Aviv, 8 Mar--Foreign Ministry Director General David Qimhi said this evening that the PLO is both too weak and too divided from within to accept Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's proposal to establish a government-in-exile. Mr Qimhi was reviewing the Foreign Ministry's activity in the international arena in a lecture he delivered in Tel Aviv to members of the Tel Aviv council workers' foreign relations club. According to him, As-Sadat's proposal is unfeasible because the PLO cannot accept it. More than ever before, the organization is at present under Syrian political and military control and is split from within because some elements are against this degree of dependence on Syria.

Mr Qimhi said that Israel is currently in a serious political conflict, which in fact constitutes a substitute for a war waged by the Arab countries that have reached the conclusion that they cannot beat us in war. Toward this campaign, all the Arab oil and capital power has been enlisted with the aim of isolating us in the world.

These measures are activated as means of extortion, just like in the pressure applied on the Netherlands to remove its embassy in Jerusalem from the capital as an aftermath of the passing of the Jerusalem law and the pressure currently being exerted on Turkey, which is bereft of oil following the Iraq-Iran war and which has been forced to turn to Saudi Arabia. The latter ultimately agreed to aid Turkey in return for Turkey's lowering of its diplomatic representation in Israel.

At the same time, the Foreign Ministry is active along several fronts in a struggle against this offensive. Hence the significance of our relations with the United States, noted today more than ever before for their good future prospects.

Mr Qimhi reported that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had heard clear words in the United States about the interests it shares with Israel. The U.S. readiness to hold a dialogue with us and share with us its views on its policy in this region is important.

Mr Qimhi noted Israel's efforts to deepen the normalization of its relations with Egypt, pointing out that almost all the areas where progress has been marked are the result of the Israeli initiative. According to him, normalization is growing and a parliamentary delegation will soon depart for Egypt. The foreign minister will visit Cairo, there will be youth exchanges and Israel will open a consulate general in Alexandria, Qimhi said. At the same time, he expressed regret over the fact that Egypt was holding up progress in the autonomy talks.

As for the "European front," Mr Qimhi said that we must clarify beyond doubt that the European initiative to effect an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borderlines, to incorporate the PLO in the peace negotiations, to grant self-determination to the Palestinians in the territories and provide Israel with international guarantees stands no chance. "The conflict cannot be solved without us," he pointed out. At the same time, he said, we must maintain a dialogue with Europe, where Israel still has many friends.

The Foreign Ministry director general added that in this campaign the Foreign Ministry employees are like members of a "frontline commando" group facing the political offensive with meager financial means, at times encountering a hostile attitude and even facing certain personal risks.

TZIPORI POINTS TO U.S.-ISRAELI 'PARTNERSHIP'

TA061938 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said today that for the first time the United States views Israel as a strategic asset for the Western world and this turns relations between the two countries into a partnership. In a lecture in Ramat Gan, Tzipori said Israel has not received even a single cent from the United States without giving something in return. The price we pay the United States is high. In addition, through Israel the United States has acquired new information, such as that on Soviet tanks.

INFILTRATION ATTEMPT BY TWO 'TERRORISTS' FOILED

TA071517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Infiltration attempts by two terrorists who used gliders were foiled this morning. One of the terrorists landed north of Rosh Hanigra and was caught by the security forces. The other terrorist landed with his glider in Kubbutz Afez in western Galilee. He then captured hostages in Tamra village and was finally caught by a border guard force. The hostages were safely released.

Eytan Comment

TA080547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan has said that great importance should not be attached to the terrorists' attempts to infiltrate into our territory with gliders. The terrorists may get front-page headlines but there is nothing to these attempts since a glider can only carry one man who cannot move freely and cannot carry large quantities of weapons. Also, this man's chances of successfully ending a night flight are not particularly good. The chief of staff was speaking to our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal.

The chief of staff added that the terrorists may also in the future attempt to enter our territory with aircraft. It is impossible to guarantee that the border is absolutely sealed. The IDF was aware of the terrorists' attempts to cross the border by air and knew about the equipment the terrorists had bought in order to cross through southern Lebanon without being spotted from the ground.

Further Report

TA081725 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Interview of Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan by military correspondent Sha'ul Stav on 8 March; place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Eytan] Yesterday an attempt was made to overcome our [electronic defense] system by means of a glider. That was an interesting attempt to transport one man. I do not think we should change our preparations or panic even slightly in view of these attempts, about which we have had information for some time. We already had information that they would take to the air through gliders or balloons--to overcome a system that they have not been able to overcome for many years.

[Question] Does this indicate anything about the terrorist organizations themselves, or perhaps point to a realignment there or new attempts to penetrate into Israel?

[Answer] It shows something very basic: that the terrorists have been trying to use any means to overcome the system, penetrate into Israel and carry out sabotage attempts. However, in all their attempts--on the sea, on land and in the air--they have failed. This one was through the air. It is only natural that they should try to get out of the situation in which they have found themselves, unable to penetrate Israel.

[Question] In the last few months, or in the last year, have we noted any changes in the terrorist organizations? There has been some information on the supply of tanks or even the possible establishment of an infrastructure of an air and naval force; do we regard this as a change in the terrorist deployment?

[Answer] The terrorists have been trying to form an establishment, or, in other words, to become a more organized army as distinct from a terrorist organization. In the past, this has been the inclination, by the way, of all underground organizations in all countries. The attempt to become a regular organization is based on the desire to switch from underground activity to a formal stage of activity as a country. This attempt by the terrorists can be seen in the organization of its headquarters, military structure--including acquiring heavy arms typical of a well established army--and the formation of political and military hierarchy. So far the deployment of the terrorists in southern Lebanon, even with the tanks they have received, is defensive and, I repeat: so far. This may change; such deployment can change very quickly.

[Question] Is the regular IDF activity against the terrorists in southern Lebanon directed against this organizing?

[Answer] The activity the IDF initiates in Lebanon against the terrorists is intended to decrease their ability to take the initiative against the people of Israel and to make things more difficult for them.

[Question] Mr Chief of Staff, my last question will be on another subject: The U.S. administration has given its final approval to the supply of offensive equipment for the F-15's sold to Saudi Arabia. Does this deal constitute a threat to the State of Israel? And, if so, how have we been preparing to face it?

[Answer] The Arabs do not lack any sea, land or air offensive or other weapon, whether produced in the East or West. The sale of the equipment to Saudi Arabia and its implications and the compensation to us are political problems on which there have been routine contacts between our government and the U.S. administration. The outcome of the contacts will determine the various arrangements--be they limitations on the use of this equipment by Saudi Arabia or some equipment given to us--to decrease the offensive impact of those weapons when in the hands of the Saudis.

Tzipori Comment

TA081638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori believes that the security forces' readiness in view of the terrorists' penetration attempts is good. At the same time, in view of Friday night's incident, the proper lessons will be learned and the necessary improvements will be undertaken. Mordekhay Tzipori was speaking to our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal. He disclosed that the terrorists who participated in the penetration were trained in Syria. They departed from north of the Litani River with the intention of penetrating into Israel to conduct a terrorist attack and return to Lebanon by air. It is known that the terrorists are being trained in the use of balloons and gliders but that they also intend to use other aviation means. On a tour of the north, the chief of staff said the terrorists had intended to hit the Haifa Bay refineries.

CABINET APPROVES NEW TAX MEASURES ON 8 MAR

TA082044 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Mar

[Text] Bank of Israel Governor Arnon Gafny was not invited to take part in today's economic discussion held by the Cabinet. Following the session, Government Secretary Arye Na'or explained that he had not invited Mr Gafny to the meeting because the governor had already made his views known to everyone, including the ministers, in a radio interview broadcast yesterday. Ministers Pat and Levy concurred during the session itself. In contrast, Minister Yisra'el Katz expressed amazement that the government's economic adviser was not taking part in the discussion. He explained that it was important for the ministers to get a professional opinion on Minister Aridor's policies. What Arye Na'or had done, he said, set a dangerous precedent. Correspondent Avi Angel reports that the finance minister did not consult with the Bank of Israel on the economic measures, with the governor of the bank hearing about the measures from the media. The Bank of Israel's research department studied the plan and its findings were that the plan intensifies the inflationary pressures; therefore, it was recommended that 2 billion shekels be cut from the state budget. Today the Cabinet approved by majority vote all the proposals put forward by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and decided to introduce tax reductions on work premiums for second and third shifts, as well as abolish property taxes and inheritance taxes.

ALGERIA

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS ALGIERS 5 MAR

LD052138 Algiers APS in English 1639 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Algiers, 5 Mar (APS)--Mr Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian vice premier and foreign minister left Algiers, on Thursday afternoon. He was seen off at "Houari Boumedine" International Airport by Mr Mohamed Ben Yahia, CC members, foreign minister. Let's recall that Mr Khaddam arrived here, on Wednesday, and that he was audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES AGRARIAN REFORM MEETING

LD071530 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] The leader of the revolution yesterday held a meeting with the General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform within the framework of implementing further plans and programs which will give positive results to the reform plan being implemented in Libya.

The leader spoke during this meeting and made a number of important remarks which were bound to light the path for the realization of these ambitious targets. In his remarks he stressed the need to work seriously to increase and multiply agricultural production, especially since the people's committees took responsibility for implementing the processes of agrarian reform, which in the past was the responsibility of the executive bodies whose existence became unjustifiable after the emergence of the people's committees.

He said: There must be no justification for shortages in agricultural production after the processes of reform has been delegated to the people's committees, since free individuals make the increase in and multiplication of production. The leader called on the people's committees to exercise their responsibility in this matter. He urged them to stress their role in the realization of this target. He said: This year must be a positive year for agricultural production. He pointed out that the abundance of potential is bound to turn the wheel of production forward.

The brother leader warned that any shortcomings in production after this will be met with popular violence. Shortcomings in implementing this duty will be viewed as treachery. The leader pointed to the subject of the coastal strip. He stressed that a large proportion of owners on this strip are not agricultural people. He said this strip must be surveyed and planned and then divided into farms. Necessary social studies are afoot to distribute these farms among the citizens who actually work in agriculture, because we will not allow those who are not agricultural people to obstruct and spoil the coastal strip project.

The brother leader urged expansion of the agrarian reform process in the Fazzan region by establishing settlement projects, as the present projects in the region do not cover all areas and valleys which could be reclaimed. He stressed that the full powers exercised by the people's committees should be used in implementing reclamation and agricultural processes in their municipalities.

The brother leader pointed to the need for each municipality to have a nursery fulfilling its needs and a farm for breeding fowl and chicken to cover the needs of the farmers. He also pointed to the importance of the fair distribution of advisers and agronomists, changing the soil in the regions to lime-rich soil, erecting wind breakers, constructing green belts and constructing public farms to satisfy the needs for agricultural produce.

AL-QADHDHAFI REPORTEDLY RECRUITING TERRORISTS

NC062208 Paris AFP in English 2142 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Rabat, 6 Mar (AFP)--Plans to kill opponents of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who have taken refuge abroad are drawn up by Eastern bloc intelligence experts and by ex-CIA agents, leading opposition member Ahmad Ibrahim Ahwas said here today.

Mr Ahwas, formerly a Libyan charge d'affaires in Guyana, told newsmen that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi hired former U.S. Marines from the crack Green Beret corps as well as men who once worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

The opposition leader said that Libyan overseas terrorism operated around the international revolutionary committee set up by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Mr Ahwas told the press here that if he wanted to eliminate an opponent overseas, the colonel drew up a mafia-style "contract" with the committee. This method was used in the attempted assassination of a Libyan student in November at Fort Collins University in Colorado, the former Libyan diplomat said.

Mr Ahwas said that the Libyan intelligence services worked closely with the "international terrorist, which comes under the Soviet KGB" and supplied "material though not ideas" to Italian terrorists.

Mr Ahwas said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was not interested in the aims of terrorist groups backed, and in Italy supplied equipment indifferently to the extreme right and extreme left.

The former diplomat taught Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi when he was at military academy and has a close personal knowledge of the Libyan leader. He told newsmen that the colonel's "basic psychological trait is a tendency to create disorder".

Hinting at the Soviet Union, Mr. Ahwas said that "some realized this trend and turned it to their own use". He said that Libya cooperated with the Soviet Union in "arms, subversion and financial deals" but admitted that he had no "precise proof" of this.

JANA REPORTS COUP ATTEMPT, DEMONSTRATION IN IRAQ

LD081720 Tripoli JANA in English 1603 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 8 Mar (JANA)--Reports from Baghdad said a bloody military coup attempt took place in the Iraqi capital Baghdad last Friday. Reports reaching Tehran said the security forces rounded up hundreds of suspected military personnel, and that eleven coup organizers were killed.

On the other hand, reports also spoke of a demonstration taking place a few days ago in Baghdad's Bab al-Muaddhiam District. The reports added that many demonstrators were arrested by the Iraqi security forces.

CHADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENOUNCES FRANCE

LD061530 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Bonn, 6 Mar (JANA)--The Chad foreign minister, Acyl Ahmat, has denounced the feverish campaign led by France, some of its allied African states and reactionary forces against Libyan presence in Chad. He stressed that this presence was an internal matter concerning Chad only and "we do not permit any party to talk about it".

He told journalists, during his stop over in Bonn on his way to Addis Ababa yesterday, that "the Libyans are present in Chad because her borders are threatened by foreign forces."

"There is no cause for concern regarding (?this presence)." The Chad minister denounced France's stance towards Chad and its attempt aimed at planting agents in a number of African countries under the pretext of legitimacy. He said "France has enabled a number of these agents to capture power by force in a number of African states. So, where is legality in all this?" He added "However, when France organizes coups in Africa, as though it is a cabinet reshuffle in Paris, the world applauds."

NICARAGUAN MINISTERS ARRIVE FOR VISIT 8 MAR

LD082228 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] The Nicaraguan ministers of foreign affairs and social security arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel [d'Escoto], in a statement to JANA, hailed the assistance which the Libyan Arab people have rendered to the people of Nicaragua before and after the triumph of the revolution in Nicaragua. He said the people in Nicaragua and their revolution stand in the same trench with the Libyan Arab people and their great revolution against all the imperialist attempts which are trying to harm the freedom of the two friendly peoples in the Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan minister added: Our people are looking forward to the fruitful results of this visit and I convey the greetings of the people of Nicaragua to the people of the Jamahiriyah and the leader of their revolution.

MAURITANIA

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON SENEGALESE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

LD060033 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Joint communique issued on 5 March at the end of a 1-day visit to Mauritania by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf]

[Text] At the invitation of Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, Senegal President Abdou Diouf paid on 5 March 1981 a friendly working visit to Mauritania. His excellency was welcomed at the airport by head of state Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala and Prime Minister Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara.

The two sides held talks in which Minister of State for Equipment Adrien Senghor, Interior Minister Jean Collin, Commerce Minister Lamine and other senior officials took part. On the Mauritanian side they were attended by Prime Minister Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneijara, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohamed el Mokhtar Ould Zamel, Interior Minister (Dabham Ould Mohamed Laghaf), Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Mamadou Cissoko, Minister of Works and Transport [name indistinct], Mauritanian Ambassador to Senegal [name indistinct] and other senior officials.

During the talks, which were held in an atmosphere full of frank mutual understanding, the two sides studied cooperation and matters of common interest, and in this respect exchanged views on African and international developments. It became clear that the views of the two sides were identical.

As regards bilateral relations, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the current development of their relations and they recalled that only fruitful cooperation based on mutual respect corresponds to the legitimate aspirations of their peoples in accordance with the ties of friendship and good-neighbor relations between the two peoples. The two sdies confirmed their determination to strengthen cooperation in all spheres. In this context it was decided to call a meeting of the Joint Committee for Mauritanian-Senegalese Cooperation, which remains the best framework for the achievement of development objectives in both countries.

At regional level the two presidents renewed their adherence to the objectives of the Organization for the Exploitation of the River Senegal and the Economic Group for the States of West Africa. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the start of work on the dams being constructed within the context of the Organization for the Exploitation of the River Senegal after it received 85 percent of the capital for those projects. The two sides also expressed confidence that the work of the organization makes a positive contribution to resolving the water problem at the level of the concerned countries and a positive starting point for the creation of wide economic cooperation in the region.

As regards the drought from which northeast Africa has suffered, the two heads of state expressed their extreme interest and anxiety at the continuation of this disaster. In this context they confirmed their full support for the call by the current president of the Organization for the Exploitation of the River Senegal, Gen Mousse Traore, for urgent aid to complete the program aimed at eliminating the traces of [word indistinct]. The two presidents expressed satisfaction at the results achieved in this context during the Islamic Conference summit held in At-Ta'if, especially concerning the establishment of a solidarity fund and the establishment of a fund in the interest of the Sahel countries. The two presidents confirmed that the existence of large regional economic groups is a decisive step toward African unity. The two sides confirmed their adherence to this unity. The two presidents renewed their countries' (?adherence) to the Lagos action program which defines the broad lines for a strategy of economic independence in Africa. The two presidents desire that Third World peoples stand united in defense of their interests in all talks aimed at laying down a new economic, social and cultural order more equitable to the interests of peoples.

As regards the situation in Africa, the two sides expressed extreme anxiety over the increasing hotbeds of tension and called on the concerned parties to (?adhere) to the OAU Charter, especially with reference to ending interference in the internal affairs of states, resorting to peaceful solutions and respect of the territorial sovereignty and independence of every state and the political boundaries inherited from colonialism.

As regards the situation in Western Sahara and Chad, the two presidents expressed anxiety over these two problems and their hope that the situation will progress toward a just solution which guarantees peace and security in the northern part of the continent.

As regards the situation in southern Africa, the two sides showed satisfaction at the efforts made within the UN framework, renewing their adherence to the immediate and sound implementation of the measures provided by the plan for independence in Namibia in accordance with the UN resolutions and recommendations. The two sides confirmed in this context their complete solidarity with the fraternal people of Namibia in their struggle under their sole legitimate representative, SWAPO. The two countries called on the five superpowers to shoulder their responsibilities in full in this context. The two countries condemned the inhumane policy of apartheid and confirmed their full solidarity with the people of South Africa struggling for freedom and recognition of their basic national rights.

As regards the situation in the Middle East, the two countries confirmed that the solution of the problem of the Arab east is definitely through the return of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, in addition to the return of the Palestinian Arab people to their usurped land. They confirmed their absolute support for the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The two sides studied the international situation and confirmed their adherence to the basic principles of the UN Charter, the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference. They confirmed that respect of these principles is necessary for the achievement of peace, security, justice and world progress.

They confirmed their determination to continue the current efforts for the achievement of these principles, especially as regards the creation of an international order for the elimination of colonialism, apartheid and Zionism and for the consolidation of international peace and security.

At the end of the visit the Senegalese president insisted on expressing his deep satisfaction at the positive results achieved, which will undoubtedly contribute to the consolidation of the relations of fraternity, warm friendship and cooperation between our sister countries. President Abdou Diouf expressed on behalf of the Senegalese delegation and on his own behalf his warmest thanks to Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, to Prime Minister Ahmed Ould Bneijara, and to the Mauritanian people for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded them in Mauritania. The Senegalese president renewed his invitations to the head of state and to the prime minister to visit Senegal. Practical arrangements for the visits, the invitations for which were accepted with satisfaction, will be made through diplomatic channels.

[Dated] Nouakchott, 5 March 1981.

5 Mar Departure

LD052206 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Senegalese President Abdou Diouf left the Mauritanian capital after a friendly working visit to our country lasting about 8 hours. The visit was successful despite its brief duration. This was manifested in the joint communique issued at the end of the visit, and the statement by the Senegalese and the Mauritanian presidents. The Senegalese president was seen off by Col Mohammad Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state; Prime Minister Sidi Ahmad Ould Bneijara; and a number of senior officials.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN MAKES UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE

5 Mar Departure

LD050026 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] A short while ago His Majesty King Hassan II left Rabat for Paris on a 48-hour private visit. His majesty will have dinner this evening with French President Giscard d'Estaing.

Press Statements After Talks

LD071312 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Rabat, 7 Mar--King Hassan held further talks yesterday evening with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, lasting 1 and 1/4 hours. On leaving the Elysee, the king made a statement to the press. He said: "We have discussed a number of bilateral and regional issues, which are, naturally, of interest to France and Morocco, though the two countries are not directly involved.

Asked about a possible French mediation in the conflict between Algeria and Morocco, the king said: "I believe France might be prepared to mediate, but so far nobody has asked it to do so. We have not asked France to mediate."

Asked if there was any hope for holding a Moroccan-Algerian meeting, the king said: "When one has a strong case, one never runs away from any meeting or arbitration.

Asked if there were any chances of buying French arms, the king said: "The wise man always searches for advice, but arms can be found everywhere." Asked about the situation in Spain, he said: "We felt completely pleased to see matters proceed on the right course. Spain has entered a new era."

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU SPEAKS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

LD090410 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0705 GMT 8 Mar 81 EA

[Speech by Mengistu Haile Mariama, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, on the occasion of the International Women's Day on 8 March at Revolution Square in Addis Ababa--live]

[Excerpts] Dear women of revolutionary Ethiopia, who have been the victims of double oppression, honorable guests and dear comrades: Since the eruption of our great revolution, we have witnessed the dawn of bright prospects not only for the hopes of communist revolutionaries but also for the concrete revolutionary gains achieved by the implementation of the new national democratic revolution programs.

In the revolutionary process the struggle of the women of revolutionary Ethiopia has grown from strength to strength. That the women of Ethiopia are now organized at the national level and are colorfully celebrating the 71st anniversary of International Women's Day is a remarkable revolutionary achievement.

Although we take pride in our women's revolutionary achievements within such a short span of time, we recognize that we must go a long way before we can overcome the complex problems to which they are subject. The remnants of the degrading traits of the feudal culture are still lingering on. Despite our relentless struggle to wipe out illiteracy in Ethiopia, the majority of our women are still illiterate. Consequently the level of participation of the women of revolutionary Ethiopia in the economic, social and political activities of the country remains far below the required standard. Since we have inherited an impoverished, backward and feudal Ethiopia with very limited resources, we have not yet succeeded in solving the problems of our women.

In spite of their commendable revolutionary achievements, the women of revolutionary Ethiopia must arm themselves with the relevant ideology and participate in the long and arduous struggle under the leadership of a proletarian organization or party in order to promote the formation of a classless egalitarian society in our country. We strongly hope that revolutionary Ethiopia's women's association will undertake the effective leadership needed to achieve these revolutionary ideals.

The revolutionary task of the Ethiopian working masses must concentrate on the ultimate aim of forming a socialist society which envisages the total abolition of all forms of oppression.

We cannot claim to have succeeded in achieving our revolutionary objectives of liberating and transforming the lifestyle of the women of revolutionary Ethiopia before we have affected their full participation in the production process through the development of the economic, scientific and technological environment.

The recent Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] regular session has rightly ruled that socialist economic construction is the only solution to the acute and massive economic problems besetting the country.

Even though our commitment and efforts to realize our objectives are praiseworthy, we are aware that baffling and exacting problems await us ahead. We undertake our revolutionary tasks conscious of the fact that we must go a long way before we can overcome the socioeconomic problems prevailing in our country. Our revolutionary struggle must aim at minimizing the problems arising from unemployment, bribery, nepotism and graft and at crushing imperialist as well as internal and external reaction machinations designed to undermine our revolution and territorial integrity. We should not, however, doubt even for a single moment that we shall emerge victorious under the leadership of our revolutionary organizations.

Ethiopia's revolutionaries are convinced that through their organization and under COPWE leadership the women of this country will make immense contributions toward the advancement and success of the revolution.

Forward with a strong women's association!

The freedom, rights and equality of the women of revoltuionary Ethiopia will be guaranteed by socialism and their joint struggles with the working masses of Ethiopia. Through our revolutionary struggles we shall build a strong and free social economy, a conscious, organized and armed work force or socialist society and an invincible defense force.

The struggle will continue. We shall be victorious. Thank you.

SOMALIA

SIAD BARRE ON AREA RELATIONS, SOVIET PRESENCE

LD061251 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 1 Mar 81 p 11

[Interview granted by Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre to Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah in Mogadishu--date not specified]

[Excerpts] As he promised me earlier, President Siad Barre received me at the (Badibua) villa. He asked me the following questions: How did you evaluate the At-Ta'if conference in your newspapers?

I said: We considered it a good omen for 1981. Now that the conference has decided in words, we are waiting for the deeds.

I asked him: How did you find the conference as far as the problems which you put to it are concerned?

[Answer] As far as we are concerned the conference issued the best international resolution on the Horn of Africa in recent years. It called for resolving conflicts peacefully and for deep understanding of the problems that cause conflicts in the area. We in Somalia support this call with all our strength. The conference called for excluding the major powers from the area, and we are now suffering from these powers' involvement in the affairs of our area.

[Question] Were you surprised that the Sudanese viewpoint differed from yours at the conference, in that Sudan expressed reservations regarding the resolution on Eritrea on the grounds that its peaceful efforts to solve the problem between Ethiopia and the Eritreans should be given a chance?

[Answer] There is a basic principle in Sudanese-Somalia relations in particular and Sudanese-Arab relations in general. This principle is not to doubt Sudan's good intentions and good work when it tries to mediate here or seek solution there. But we sometimes feel that the recent Sudanese effort has probably shown too much good faith in the Ethiopian regime, bearing in mind that Ethiopia could in fact draw up and pursue policies of its own as an African regime free of the international tutelage imposed on it by the Soviet Union.

[Question] The Sudanese, according to their own view of things, believe that the Ethiopian regime would be inclined to moderation and to local solutions for internal problems. The Sudanese believe that it is possible to reduce Ethiopian-Soviet relations and the Soviet presence in Ethiopia if the local problems that burden the Ethiopian regime are reduced. What do you think?

[Answer] This is an important question and is indeed based on assumption by our Sudanese brothers. But what we see wrong in these assumptions is that the Ethiopian regime's need for the Soviet presence is no less than the Soviets' needs for this intensive presence in this strategic part of Africa and the Red Sea. In the eyes of the Soviet strategists, just as in the eyes of Western strategists, Ethiopia occupies the most important position overlooking what is to the Soviets "the lost paradise," namely the Arabian Peninsula and the Indian Ocean. In fact, Mengistu can solve his problems with us, with the Eritreans and with other conflicting nationalities if he listens to the voice of reason and wisdom and looks at things with a view free of national fanaticism. We, as Somalia and as a principal party, will help a lot if he shows any initiative in this direction. We believe that the Eritreans and Sudanese feel the same thing. But how will the Russians solve their strategic equation in the area if Mengistu and the other conflicting parties solve the problems which some parties wrongly believe are solely due to the Soviet presence?

[Question] Western quarters seem now to tend to believe the theory that it is possible for Mengistu to free himself of the Soviets if the situation inside and around his country calms down. Have the Westerners informed you of such a view?

[Answer] This view is similar to or is part of the view held by the Sudanese brothers. We heard it from them and later from the West. Recently it was peddled in some Arab quarters. We have made our view known to all these people in the manner I have just explained. We would add that the Soviets today are different from the Soviets yesterday. What we know about their presence in Ethiopia is that it is too strong to be removed or uprooted by Mengistu even if he wished. To be fair, we must say that the man is daily proving his increasing loyalty to Marxism and internationalism. Together with the Russians he is building with great diligence his Communist Party and his economic system.

[Question] Do you believe that the Russians are dreaming of returning to Somalia, and have there been any contacts with you to make you alter your stands since the United States cut back its relations with you?

[Answer] There was contact at the beginning of the disagreement between us, but now there are neither relations nor contacts except through diplomatic channels in relation to specific tasks and duties. Most of these contacts deal wither with protests and objections on our part or with threats on their part.

More specifically I can say that the Soviets will not return as long as I am the head of state in Somalia, because the dispute with the Soviets is no longer merely a diplomatic or political dispute but, as far as we are concerned, a matter involving an insult to Somalia's dignity. I must warn everybody that the Russians are now using all their capabilities in order to return to Somalia. Ethiopia, our internal problems and our tribal problems all are weapons against us. Indeed, the slowness and reluctance of the West, particularly the United States, to support us is also a weapon against us.

[Question] Why, in your opinion, are the Americans reluctant to support you?

[Answer] The Americans and the West in general are dreaming of returning to the Ethiopian "empire," to the place they held before. Like other major powers, they do not wish to deal with a state that has a will of its own and a leadership of its own. They probably are afraid to meet the same fate as the Russians met in our country when they went beyond their limits with us and sought their own interests and forgot ours.

BRIEFS

DEATH OF MINISTER--The secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party and president of the Somali Democratic Republic, Challe Muhamed Siad Barre, this morning attended the funeral of the former minister of education [as heard], Dr Kenadid Ahmed Yusuf, who died in Mogadishu last night. [Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 7 Mar 81 LD/EA]

UGANDA

OBOTE SEEKS RESTORED SECURITY, STRONG DEMOCRACY

LD072020 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 7 Mar 81 EA

[Text] President Milton Obote has warned that his government will use to the very maximum the power of the law to rid the country of any semblance of Aminism or new forms of vandalism and appealed for public cooperation in this common cause.

In a broadcast to the nation last night, the president urged all Ugandans not to allow themselves to be hoodwinked twice within some 10 years into an era of chaos, death and destruction. He observed that the gunmen of today are saying what Amin used to say, and he added: They mean to do to Ugandans what Amin did; namely, chaos, death and destruction.

On behalf of the government, the president assured the people of Uganda that every possible measure is being taken to contain the activities of the gunmen. He disclosed that the government has decided to increase the activities of the security forces in order to provide security throughout the country.

This present government, of which I have the honour to be the leader, he declared, is truly a democratically elected government. We have been given the mandate to guide the (?destiny) of this country and I assure you we shall do this. Any Ugandan who knows of any gunman in his or her area, was urged to report to the authorities immediately in order to avoid being inconvenienced in the operations of the security forces.

The president expressed deep condolence to the families of those Ugandans who lost their lives in the recent activities and operations. He said the government regrets very much that lives were lost and property destroyed or looted. Strict orders have been given to the security personnel to carry out their operations with firmness but without harassing innocent people and to give every respect to life and property. He called on Ugandans to denounce gunmen, to deny them sanctuary and to report them without delay to the authorities.

Commenting on the forthcoming meeting of the National Assembly, Dr Obote stressed that for the first time in 10 years the people's voice must be paramount in the administration of the country. He advised the electorate to discuss with their representatives in parliament and amongst themselves the problems now facing the country so that, together as a nation, they might have a national consensus on how best to meet the challenges facing the country.

Since the end of the general elections in December last year, the Cabinet has identified two areas which need immediate and determined efforts. These are security for all people in Uganda, and secondly, increased economic production and provision of services.

He pledged his government's determination to create the necessary conditions that will enable every Ugandan to exercise his or her constitutional rights in every field of human endeavor for a better Uganda. He called on all peace-loving Ugandans to defend and consolidate the democracy which was restored after the general elections last December by upholding the rule of law and creating democratic institutions.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

AFP REPORTS ON POLITICAL CLIMATE BEFORE ELECTION

AB061456 Paris AFP in French 1144 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 5 Mar (AFP)--Ten days before the presidential election of 15 March, the election campaign is at its height in Bangui and other big towns of the CAR. The electoral staffs are organizing themselves and are beginning to pick up to speed. Several small trucks are blaring out their propaganda slogans over the crackling noise of their loud-speakers. If streamers and posters have not as yet been seen at the places provided for them, t-shirts with the effigy of Mr David Dacko, the outgoing president, or slogans in support of Mr Francois Pehoua (independent candidate) for a new CAR, are seen here and there in the streets of the capital city.

The other candidates to the presidency--Mr Abel Goumba (Ubangi Patriotic Front-Labor Party), Ange Patasse (Central African People's Liberation Movement), and Mr Henrie Maidou (Republican Progress Party)--do not seem to be in a hurry to reveal their campaign machines. However, all the candidates have been roaming the prefectures and the subprefectures for the past few days.

About 90 percent of the CAR electorate is in the rural areas. It is therefore obvious that the outcome of the polls will be decided by the rural folks. Yet these people, most of whom are illiterate, have not voted for the past 20 years. Unprepared and underinformed, the rural population will have a lot of difficulty in choosing their president freely and wisely. Moreover, the means--especially financial--deployed by candidates will be a determining factor.

Finally, many observers think that material difficulties and organizational problems may seriously affect the holding of the elections. Politically, one element which is likely to incite feeling is the presence of French soldiers in the country. In fact, French military jeeps and trucks, which are sometimes seen in the streets, seem to cause some resentment. Provocations and incidents are still possible even though the soldiers have been given strict directives. On this subject Mr Ange Patasse, in a radio and television interview on Wednesday night, asked his fellow citizens not to be intimidated by French soldiers on election day.

Officially opening the election campaign, Mr Dacko appealed to the candidates to retain the fiery and impulsive attitude of their supporters in order to save Central Africans from sociopolitical upheavals, or even a fratricidal rupture. On the eve of these elections, political leaders and the candidates talk more about dignity and maturity, principles which should guide the Central African people during the elections.

CHAD

HABRE ASKS PEOPLE TO RESIST 'LIBYAN CONQUEROR'

AB090715 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 9 Mar 81

[Text] The former Chadian defense minister, Mr Hissein Habre, has again broken the silence: He has invited the Chadian people to resist what he has called the Libyan conqueror, that is Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In a communique which reached Paris yesterday, the leader of the FAN declared that the Chadian tragedy has entered a new phase that is grave and decisive for the future of the country and its people [word indistinct]. Moreover, Mr Habre denounced Libya's expansionist and annexationist intentions and reaffirmed his movement's determination to continue the struggle until total liberation.

The former Chadian defense minister said that the tactical retreat from Ndjamena was merely the consequence of a new war strategy. Considering Mr Hissein Habre's statement, one can say that the Chadians may expect some difficult moments and an uncertain future.

GABON

OFFICIAL CONDEMNS LIBYAN OCCUPATION OF CHAD

AB061126 Paris AFP in French 1829 GMT 5 Mar 81

[Text] Paris, 5 Mar (AFP)--The first vice prime minister of Gabon, Mr Georges Rawiri, affirmed in Paris on Thursday that the Libyan military occupation of Chad creates a serious situation that could worsen if a solution is not found quickly. Mr Rawiri, who has just ended a mission to Europe, particularly to West Germany, Italy and Belgium, concerning the construction of the trans-Gabon railroad line, was the guest at a dinner given by the Euro-African Press Association.

President Bongo was the only African head of state who clearly stated his position on the Chadian problem, he continued. Right from the beginning he predicted what has in fact happened. He did not do so only for Gabon, which at least does not share a common border with Chad, but he did it in the interest of all Africa. The Libyan military occupation of Chad, Mr Rawiri stressed is very serious, and if nothing is done about it, we will experience other political and economic upheavals.

Recalling Chad's intention to rejoin the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) before the Libyan military occupation, Mr Rawiri said that the Bank of Central African States is presently studying ways of reintroducing the CFA franc into the country.

In answer to a question the vice prime minister said it is difficult to decide what aid to give Chad while the situation is still confused. Medical aid is possible, he added, but aid for reconstruction will depend on Libya's attitude: either they stay in Chad and perhaps help with reconstruction themselves, or they leave the country and let African countries decide what aid to give to Chad.

Concerning the economic situation in Gabon, Mr Rawiri gave the assurance that it is almost revived. By 1982 there will no longer be any problems, he said. The vice prime minister recalled that the economic difficulties began in 1977, mainly because of the high cost of construction work for the OAU summit conference held in Libreville, but the decisions taken on the advice of the IMF and followed to the letter have helped to redress the situation.

ZAIRE

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AS BELGIAN LEADER ENDS VISIT

AB081035 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1334 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Kinshasa, 6 Mar (AZAP)--The Belgian prime minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, and the first state commissioner, Citizen Nguza Karl-I-Bond, have expressed their desire to develop Zairian-Belgian relations in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation based on mutual interests and in strict respect for sovereignty, the principle of noninterference and the equality of both countries and international conventions. This is contained in the joint communique published Thursday evening at the end of the Belgian prime minister's visit to Zaire at the head of a large delegation.

The two parties agreed to continue to exchange views on problems of common interest within the framework of the Great Belgian-Zairian Ministerial Commission. The following is the full text of the communique:

The Belgian prime minister, His Excellency Mr Wilfried Martens accompanied by his wife as well as by the Belgian foreign minister, His Excellency Mr Charles Ferdinand Nothomb, paid an official visit to the Zaire Republic from 27 February to 5 March 1981 at the invitation of the Zairian Executive Council. During his stay the Belgian prime minister was received in audience by Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Kgbendu Wa Za Banga, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, with whom he discussed all problems of common interest between the two countries in a spirit characterized by frankness and the mutual respect for the sovereignty and interests of the two peoples.

The Belgian prime minister and the officials who accompanied him visited some key economic and social projects and some tourist attractions in Zaire.

In Kinshasa, Goma, Lubumbashi, Kolwezi and in Inga, the prime minister, accompanied by the first state commissioner, was able to see the efforts being deployed by the Executive Council to revive Zaire's economy.

The Belgian prime minister and the Zairian first state commissioner held several discussions on political, technical, financial and economic cooperation. The following people took part in the discussions.

On the Belgian side: Mr Wilfried Martens, prime minister; Mr Charles Ferdinand Nothomb, foreign affairs minister; Mr Jean-Paul van Bellinghen, Belgian ambassador to Zaire; Mr Alfred Cahen, director general of the Political Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr Philippe de Schoutheete, principal private secretary to the minister of foreign affairs; Mr Willy Block, principal private secretary to the minister of cooperation; Mr Alex Reyn, adviser in the office of the prime minister; and Mr W. Haenen, press secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the Zairian side: Citizen Nguza Karl-I-Bond, first state commissioner; Citizen Bomboko Lokumba, deputy first state commissioner and state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation; Citizen Namwisi Ma Nkoy, state commissioner for finance and budget; Citizen Bokana Wondangela, general commissioner for planning; Citizen Sambwa Pida Bangi, governor of the Bank of Zaire; Citizen Lengema Dulia Yubassa Makanga, state secretary for international cooperation; Citizen Kengo Wa Dondo, Zaire's ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium; Citizen Mambu Ma Khenzu Makwala, principal private secretary to the first state commissioner; Citizen Nyiwa Mobutu, Zaire's roving ambassador; Citizen Mbolandinga Katako, ambassador, principal adviser to the deputy first state commissioner and state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation; Citizen Basele Ikondi Ya Bankolo Lopori, ambassador, director of European affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Citizen Ndombi Mvolo Maboti, chief adviser at the office of the first state commissioner; and Citizen Mbela Hiza, adviser in the office of the head of state's special adviser.

During the talks the two delegations examined in depth relations between Zaire and Belgium. The two heads of government expressed their determination to develop these ties in an atmosphere of cooperation based on mutual interests and in strict respect for sovereignty, the principle of noninterference, the equality of both countries and international convention.

In this connection the Zairian side asked the Belgian delegation about the legal status of Zairian nationals living in Belgium for political reasons. The Belgian delegation clarified this point and promised to furnish the Executive Council with a comprehensive report. The Belgian prime minister confirmed that his government applies the country's law to those Zairian nationals as it does to all aliens in the same situation. He will ensure the objective and loyal implementation of the law.

The two delegations have already held talks on the situation resulting from the world economic crisis and called for the reorganization of world economic and commercial structures. They have also exchanged views on the prospects for the 1980's.

During their talks Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Foreign Minister Charles Ferdinand Nothomb of Belgium and their Zairian counterparts, Citizen Nguza Karl-I-Bond and Citizen Bomboko Lokumba, appraised the results of the consultations between both countries and the operations of the commission set up in 1975 at the highest level.

They expressed their satisfaction with the operation of these commissions, which are the only legal means of handling all kinds of questions related to cooperation between the two countries and which remain the permanent and comprehensive framework for such cooperation.

They agreed to continue their consultation on all issues of common interest within the framework of the Belgium-Zaire joint commission, which will continue to meet twice a year, alternately in Kinshasa and Brussels. Its deliberations will always be prepare by a joint team of experts. In this regard cooperation in the sectors of agriculture, transportation and energy will be examined on a priority basis.

The two delegations have also agreed to maintain and strengthen their cooperation at all levels, especially in Trade, in accordance with existing agreements. The provisions of these agreements may be updated to reflect the new realities and to take experience into account. A comprehensive program has been proposed in order to improve cooperation and make it more efficient.

With regard to technical assistance, Zaire has expressed satisfaction with Belgian assistance, especially with the assistance granted within the framework of the Customs and Excise Office. The Zairian delegation has asked for 13 more agents to supplement the team now operating in order to step up the antismuggling campaign. The Belgian delegation has promised to send 3 agents immediately and to examine with sympathy the request for 10 others.

With regard to financial cooperation, the Zairian side has requested a loan which will be used to consolidate the program of economic recovery before the IMF grants the country loan facilities.

After noting the considerable efforts made by Zaire in order to successfully implement its program of economic recovery and stabilization, the Belgian side has promised to encourage Belgium's financial institutions to grant Zaire a transitional loan to bridge the gap while waiting for the IMF loan. The Belgian Government has pledged its diplomatic support to Zaire and will continue to provide support until Zaire gains access to extended IMF loan facilities. The same support is given within the framework of the medium-term investment program, which is expected to be examined very soon by the World Bank consultative group.

With regard to cooperation between the Belgian Investment Company [SBI] and the Finance Company for Development [Sofide], the Zairian delegation has asked the Belgian Government to grant the SBI the authorization to open a line of credit for the Sofide. The Belgain delegation has promised to look favorably into the request.

Considering the efforts being made by Zaire in order to revive its economy, its delegation has expressed hope that the conditions for the country's access to the facilities granted by the Ducroire National Office will be improved. The Belgian side has promised to look into the question with due attention.

In order to find ways to promote three types of crops--food crops, export crops and crops used as raw materials in food-processing industries--the two delegations have agreed to examine the issue within the framework of the appropriate existing body.

Also the Zairian Excutive Council has asked Belgium for financial assistance for the electrification program of the Matadi-Kinshasa railroad. The feasibility studies, which will be financed by the Belgian Cooperation Fund, will begin next April. The Belgian delegation has taken notice of the issue, and it has promised to assess the results achieved in the discussions already begun in Belgium.

On the occasion of the present visit, the Belgian prime minister and the first state commissioner of Zaire have signed the following accords and arrangements:

1. An agreement on maritime cooperation.
2. An additional clause to the 1972 agreement on the line of credit granted to Zaire by the National Bank of Belgium. The amount of the credit has been increased from 700 million to 1 billion Belgian francs.
3. An agreement on a bilateral loan, worth 400 million Belgian francs, for the 1981 fiscal year. The money is intended to be used in the main sectors of Zaire's economy. The allocation of the money to the various sectors will be determined through an exchange of letters.
4. A special clause relating to the technical studies for the Mombasa-Komanda section of the Trans-African Highway.

The talks took place in a friendly and frank atmosphere of mutual understanding.

The next session of the Belgian-Zairian joint commission will be held in July 1981. The Belgian minister of cooperation and development will visit Zaire during the second half of April.

The Belgian prime minister has invited the first state commissioner to pay an official visit to Belgium. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date will be set through diplomatic channels.

The Belgian prime minister has expressed his satisfaction with the honor which the MPR-founding chairman and president of the republic paid him in granting him an audience. He has thanked the Executive Council and the Zairian people for the reception and the hospitality accorded him.

Issued in Kinshasa, on 5 March 1981.

[Signed] On behalf of the Belgian Government: Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Foreign Minister Charles Ferdinand Nothomb

For the Republic of Zaire: The first state commissioner, Nguza Karl-I-Bond and the deputy first state commissioner in charge of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Bomboko Lokumba

Prime Minister's Remarks

AB061015 Paris AFP in French 0819 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 6 Mar (AFP)--Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens yesterday said in Kinshasa that the relations between Belgium and Zaire have made a new start, adding that his discussions with President Mobutu on Wednesday were very positive.

Mr Martens indicated during a press conference that his government is now studying a judicial report on the status that should be granted to these refugees and that the Zairian Government would be informed about the decisions taken after this study. He expressed the view that the explanations given to the Zairian authorities during his visit made it possible to ease the atmosphere of the discussions.

The Zairian first state commissioner (minister), Mr Nguza Karl-I-Bond, who accompanied Mr Martens during his 1-week visit in the interior of the country, will visit Belgium at a date to be specified.

GHANA

LIMANN URGES PEOPLE TO RESIST 'REDEEMERS'

AB070835 Accra Domestic Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] President Limann has urged Ghanaians to pledge never again to allow their birthright to be taken away from them by self-proclaimed redeemers and crazy adventurers. Speaking at a cocktail party at the castle last night to mark the 24th anniversary of Ghana's independence, Dr Limann said Ghanaians must remain a free people capable of changing their rulers and governments through fair and free elections by casting their votes uncoerced. He pointed out that the country's brief history has been replete with civilian treason, military intervention and socioeconomic rises. By resisting panic and disintegration tendencies, Ghanaians have managed to maintain their unitary state and closely knit society intact.

President Limann announced that President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, who is the chairman of the OAU, will pay a 1-day friendly visit to Ghana on Monday, the 9th of March. The day has also been declared a holiday for the armed forces, the police and prison services, schoolmasters and pupils.

GUINEA

SEKOU TOURE RETURNS FROM ISLAMIC MEDIATION MISSION

AB061355 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The head of state and supreme leader of the revolution, President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who was chosen by the third Islamic conference to preside over the committee entrusted with mediation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, returned home to Conakry yesterday afternoon at 1730.

NIGERIA SAID READY TO JOIN IN MINING PROJECTS

AB061651 Paris AFP in French 1329 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Dakar, 6 March (AFP)--According to Radio Conakry, monitored in Dakar, Nigeria is prepared to obtain a 25 percent share in a joint project for uranium prospecting and exploitation in Guinea, where eight deposits were recently reopened. The radio, which was reporting on the visit to Guinea by the Nigerian minister of energy and mines, Mr Mohamed Ibrahima Hassan, said that the Guinean and Nigerian Governments as well as several American and European firms will meet in Conakry from 10 to 12 March to harmonize the interests of all the parties in the project and to define the nature and terms of the joint partnership agreements. The French company, Cogema, undertook the uranium prospecting in Guinea.

In addition, the radio announced that the council of administration of the joint company, the Nimba iron mining company of Guinea, Mifergui-Nimba, would meet in Conakry in a month's time at the request of the Guinean and Nigerian Governments to discuss the exploitation of the rich iron deposits in the Nimba mountain in south-west Guinea near the Liberian border, whose reserves are estimated at 1.5 billion tons.

The Mifergui-Nimba Company comprises Guinea and some African (Nigeria, Algeria, Liberia), Japanese (Nichimen and Mitshubitshi) and European (Lini of Spain, Rudis and Energoprojekt of Yugoslavia) partners.

According to the radio a new partner, the American firm, U.S. Steel of Pittsburgh, announced its $20 million participation in the project on 27 February 1981.

In addition, Radio Conakry said, an agreement was reached in Paris between Mifergui and the Liberian-American-Swedish minerals company, a firm which exploits Liberian iron, for the transportation of Guinean materials on its railway to the Liberian port of Buchanan.

The Guinean radio recalled that the Mifergui-Simba project would start this year and that the first exports were expected to take place in 1984. Nigeria, which is currently building a gigantic steel complex which will operate in 1983 and which aims at producing 3.5 million tons of steel, is very much interested in Guinean iron. According to Radio Guinea it is prepared to provide the Mifergui company with technical aid.

GUINEA-BISSAU

ALL STUDENTS DETAINED AFTER INCIDENTS RELEASED

AB061422 Paris AFP in French 1300 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Bissau, 6 Mar (AFP)--It was learned from reliable sources in Bissau on Friday that all the students who were arrested following the student unrest in Guinea-Bissau at the end of February have been released. The students, a total of 12, were detained after the arrest of 200 students by the police during a demonstration organized to demand the readmission of four of their fellow students who had been expelled from the Bissau high school.

The reason for this unrest was that the students challenged a marking system introduced by the Cuban advisors in which not only the student's work but also his social behavior in school and in life were judged.

A commission of inquiry, comprising four officials of the Ministry of National Education has been set up and it has begun examining the students complaint, but no information has so far been disclosed on the issue. The Bissau high school, which was closed down, will reopen on Monday.

LIBERIA

DOE VISITS HOSPITALIZED SECRETARY GENERAL

AB081238 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1200 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Head of State Master Sergeant Doe yesterday visited the People's Redemption Council [PRC] secretary general, Col Ibrahim D. Coley, who is undergoing medical treatment at the J.F.K. Medical Hospital in Monrovia following a car accident last Tuesday. This is the second time Head of State Doe has visited Colonel Coley at the hospital since his involvement in the accident last Tuesday. Master Sergeant Doe first visited Colonel Coley last Tuesday, the day of the accident.

MALI

ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER ARRIVES IN GAO

AB081432 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Algerian Interior Minister Boualem Benhamouda arrived in Gao this morning. On arrival, he declared that Mali and Algeria are neighboring countries and therefore have issues of common interest to discuss. My visit to our brotherly and friendly country Mali falls within this framework, he said.

In spite of trouble with communications from our special correspondent Karfala Kouyate, he informs us that Gao inhabitants have accorded an enthusiastic welcome to the Algerian minister, who was greeted on his arrival by his Malian counterpart, Lt Col Sory Ibrahim Sylla, as well as the governor of the Seventh Region and the Algerian ambassador to Mali.

The Algerian interior minister will leave shortly for Tombouctou and is expected in Bamako tomorrow where he will attend a working session at 1600.

NIGER

KOUNTCHE RECEIVES ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER

AB071400 Paris AFP in French 1325 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Niamey, 7 Mar (AFP)--The Algerian minister of interior, Dr Boualem Benhamouda, who arrived in Niamey on Friday, was received in audience by President Seyni Kountche of Niger. Their talks centered on relations between their two countries and the situation in the region.

The minister told the Voice of Sahel that he had very friendly and positive discussions with the head of state on cooperation between the two countries and the situation in the region.

The Algerian minister went to Agadez, a town bordering on the Algerian region of Tamanrasset, to discuss with local authorities, problems concerning the movement of people and border relations in general.

Asked about the agreement of merger between Libya and Chad, the minister stressed that Algeria's position was well known: Heads of state cannot decide on the union of their countries; such a decision should come from peoples of the two countries.

FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER ARRIVES IN NIAMEY

AB080833 Paris AFP in English 0810 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Niamey, March 8 (AFP)--French Defense Minister Robert Galley has arrived here for talks with the Government of Niger, where France reportedly wants to station troops to help counter the Libyan presence in Chad.

Mr. Galley, who is also France's overseas aid minister, said on arriving last night that his visit was part of a continuing series of contacts with Niger's leaders to fix the outlines of France-Niger cooperation.

He mentioned a recent fall in the price of uranium, mined by a France-Niger consortium in the arid north of the West African country. This, he said, had put Niger in a difficult budgetary situation. He also said that there were problems to iron out in the funding of a dam Niger wants to build at Kandadji for electricity production and irrigation.

During his four-day stay, Mr. Galley will meet Foreign Minister Daouda Diallo and President Seyni Kountche.

Paris is reported to have been in contact with Niamey on the possibility of stationing French troops in Niger, which has an eastern border with Chad and touches Libya to the northeast.

Colonel Kountche is clearly concerned that the reported presence of 7,000-10,000 Libyan soldiers in Chad could threaten Niger, whose Touareg population in the north has links with the nomads of Libya.

But according to reports in French press, Niamey is also concerned it could open itself to charges of complicity with neo-colonialism in pan-African circles if it let French troops come here. There are already a couple of dozen French advisers training Niger's armed forces.

NIGERIA

NATION WARNED OF FRENCH PLAN TO INTERVENE IN CHAD

AB061458 Paris AFP in English 1432 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Lagos, 6 March (AFP)--A member of the Institute of Strategic Studies has said that France has embarked on a comprehensive, systematic plan to intervene militarily in Chad, the DAILY TIMES newspaper reported here today.

Margaret Vogt, speaking at a public seminar on Chad organised by the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs here, was quoted as calling upon the Nigerian Government therefore to fortify its borders with Chad, not only to defend itself, but to invade in hot pursuit if need be.

France was pouring soldiers and arms into Francophone countries bordering the former French colony and some other West African states, Mrs. Vogt reportedly said.

She said that the French base at Bouar, in the Central African Republic, had been reinforced with 400 legionnaires and an armoured squadron that could be easily reinforced either from southern France or Libreville, Gabon. Mrs. Vogt added that reports had confirmed that French troops based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, had been tripled within the last few weeks.

UPPER VOLTA

COL SAYE ZERBO SPEAKS AT GOLD MINE REOPENING

AB071338 Paris AFP in French 1147 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Ouagadougou, 7 Mar (AFP)--Speaking yesterday at Pura (180 km southwest of Ouagadougou) during the ceremony reopening the gold mine there, the Upper Voltan head of state, Col Saye Zerbo, stated that Upper Volta will know the depth of other people's friendship for it through their interest in the country's priorities.

The Upper Voltan head of state indicated that the Pura gold deposits, which are estimated at 1.5 million tons of ore containing 22,000 kilograms of pure gold valued at about 80 billion CFA francs, will increase the country's budget by 6 percent. Col Saye Zerbo affirmed the determination of the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress (CMRPN) to intensify the search for minerals. Internally, he declared, we will do everything to strengthen the institutions responsible for applying our mining policy. Externally, Upper Volta's mining policy will first of all consist of improving our relations with the organizations and countries which are effectively helping us in this field, added the head of state, who paid tribute to the UN development program, France, West Germany, Italy, Canada and the Netherlands.

The mining sector is not only a priority but also a necessity for Upper Volta's economic development, declared the head of state, who called on the organizations and countries which are still hesitating to join their efforts with those of the others to accelerate the development of this sector. He expressed his conviction that Upper Volta has rich mineral deposits. The head of state then talked about the phosphate deposits at Kodjari, near the Niger border, and the manganese deposits at Tamabo, 300 kilometers north of Ouagadougou, which can easily be doubled if the carbonates are utilized. A sum of 1 billion CFA francs will be needed to establish the infrastructure required to develop these deposits.

Not far from Tamabo, we also have limestone deposits good for cement manufacture, the development of which will make Upper Volta self-sufficient in cement production and thus promote the construction sector, added Col Saye Zerbo. The Pura gold mine will be exploited by Soremi (mining research company), 60 percent of whose capital is owned by Upper Volta, its partners being the Islamic Development Bank with 19.98 percent, the Compagnie Francaise de Mines with 20 percent and Penarroya with .2 percent of the shares.

Investments are estimated at 13.193 billion CFA francs; the estimated yearly ore productio is 180,000 tons; and the deposit is estimated to contain 22 tons of pure gold.

ANGOLA

EDUARDO DOS SANTOS CONGRATULATES BREZHNEV

LD071602 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 7 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola, on behalf of the party Central Committee and the Angolan people, has congratulated Leonid Brezhnev, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, on his reelection to the post of CPSU secretary general.

In a message addressed to the CPSU secretary general, Leonid Brezhnev, the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the People's Republic of Angola said: By making such a decision, the recent 26th CPSU Congress demonstrated its heartfelt trust in and recognition of the dedicated work that you have been undertaking for the defense of world socialism, peace, international security, social justice, independence and equality among peoples against imperialism and neocolonialism.

After reaffirming our decision to promote the friendship and cooperation between our two peoples, parties and governments, which was cemented during the struggle against colonialism, and which today are being strengthened on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos wished the CPSU leader success in the implementation of the guidelines laid down at the 26th congress.

ADN REPORTS ON SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS WITH GDR

LD071932 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1635 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Luanda, 7 Mar (ADN)--The fourth session of the GDR-Angola joint economic committee ended in Luanda on Saturday with the signing of long-term arrangements concerning economic cooperation between the GDR and the People's Republic of Angola. The agreements were signed by Wolfgang Rauchfuss, head of the GDR Government delegation, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED] Central Committee and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and Fernando Faustino Muteka, head of the Angolan side of the joint economic committee and minister for transport and communications.

On the same day Wolfgang Rauchfuss was received by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party, president of Angola and president of the People's Assembly. Wolfgang Rauchfuss handed him a message from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council.

A government agreement was signed on important tasks in the economic and scientific-technical development of the economies of the two countries for the period 1981-1985. Another government agreement was concluded covering long-term supplies of Angolan coffee to the GDR and the further deployment of Free German Youth friendship bridages in Angola. Further accords were signed on cooperation in individual economic spheres.

In a communique, both sides stress that fundamental prerequisites for the further stable, planned and dynamic development of economic relations in the next 5-year period have been created and a new stage in the bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both peoples ushered in.

OIL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ALGERIA ON 7 MAR

LD081226 Algiers APS in English 1120 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Luanda, 8 Mar (APS)--An agreement on petrol was signed Saturday here between Algeria and Angola calling for large cooperation in oil field "ANGOP" news agency reported.

A statement published at the issue of talks between the Algerian delegation led by Mr B. Nabi, CC member, energy minister and the Angolan delegation headed by Mr Jorge de Morais, petrol minister indicated that the agreement refers to the exchange of experts and technicians. It provides also consultations between the two countries higher education organisms and the formation of Angolan technicians in Algeria.

The two parties convened to meet [word indistinct] a year at ministerial level to discuss energy problems.

Work commissions have been set up for petrol exploration, production and commercialisation.

Mr Nabi arrived at Luanda on Thursday at the invitation of his Angolan counterpart.

18 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' SENTENCED TO DEATH

LD081530 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 8 Mar 81 EA

[Text] At the end of a 10 day trial the People's Revolutionary Tribunal sentenced to death 18 of the 34 counterrevolutionaries of the bombing network of Huambo Province of the Angolan central plateau. The trial was held in Humaro, capital of Huambo Province. The tribunal acquitted 10 defendants for lack of evidence to prove their involvement in bomb attacks.

The tribunal sentenced the remaining counterrevolutionaries to jail terms with hard labor ranging between 8 and 24 years.

Death sentences will be carried out on the following counterrevolutionaries: (Castro Luis), (Jose Alfredo Cassanje), (Kbartolomeu Nataniel), (Vintura Francisco), (Celestino Defune), (Isato Maior), (Laurindo Guilherme), (Francisco Guilherme), (Justino Maria), (Cornelio Alcanse), (Manoul Vasco Ovara), (Laulerio Canando), (Armando Chicala), (Beato Cassanje), (Augusto Cahonde), (Faustino Valenje), (Feliciano Sungolola) and (Artur Vostar).

Further Report

AB080825 Paris AFP in French 0707 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] Luanda, 8 Mar (AFP)--Eighteen persons were sentenced to death Friday in Luanda, the Angolan news agency ANGOP announces. They were convicted of committing bomb attempts for Jonas Savimbi's UNITA. ANGOP states that 13 other accused people received various sentences ranging from 8 to 24 years in prison. The tribunal especially stressed the charge that the accused people were fully aware of the collaboration between the UNITA and South Africa when that country invaded Angola in a bid to prevent it from achieving its independence.

COMOROS

JOHANNESBURG REPORTS FEBRUARY COUP FOILED

LD071230 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] Reports say the Government of the Comoro Islands foiled a coup by presidential guards last month. About 50 people, including members of the armed forces and the civil service, are in custody in the country, which is situated in the Mozambique channel between Mozambique on the mainland and Madagascar. The authorities apparently learned of the conspiracy and arrested those involved a few hours before the coup was to be launched on the night of 14 February. A quantity of arms was seized. The Comoros are facing a number of economic and social problems, and President Ahmed Abdallah has been considering retiring before his term of office ends in 1984.

Official Denies Attempt

AB061258 Paris AFP in French 1150 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] Moroni, 6 Mar (AFP)--In an official statement yesterday in Moroni, the Comoran foreign minister, Mr Ali Mroudjae, formally denied reports that an attempted coup d'etat resulting in the death of seven people had taken place at Mitsoudje, 10 km from the Comoran capital, in February. There has never been an uprising in the Comoros, nor has anyone been killed in the so-called Mitsoudje events, he said, explaining that the fact was that during the past few months subversive documents including recorded cassettes have been circulating in the Comoros for the purpose of creating trouble throughout the country and inciting people to commit isolated crimes and engage in criminal attempts.

After explaining that these cassettes and documents came from outside the country and emanated from the very individuals who have always persistently tried to present a bad picture of the Comoros, Mr Mroudjae affirmed that about 30 persons have been interrogated. He said the persons involved in the transportation or use of the documents have been interrogated and those found guilty have been released.

The Comoran foreign minister then explained that the inquiry opened by the government is continuing and that customs officers have been instructed to hunt for these documents. He stated that the documents, which had been put into circulation in the villages, have been seized by the authorities thanks to the cooperation of the people. Mr Ali Mroudjae finally reassured the Comoran families residing abroad as well as the families of all technical cooperation officials of all nationalities working in the Comoros. The situation is calm in the Comoros and the subversive network has been dismantled even before any clash whatsoever, he concluded.

MOZAMBIQUE

NOTICIAS CITED ON ACTIVITIES OF 'TRATIOR'

LD081536 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 8 Mar 81 EA

[Text] (Alfido Chivite), an ex-captain of the Mozambique armed forces and one of the eight traitors paraded by President Samora Machel at the rally held on 14 February in Maputo, supplied information to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA, on the South African ANC. This information was used by the South Africans in the attack on ANC refugee residences in the Matola area of Maputo.

According to today's edition of NOTICIAS, the traitor, (Alfido Chivite), who also headed the war equipment department of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique (FPLM) general staff, has revealed the collaboration existing between the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and the South African secret service the Bureau of State Security NIS.

This information, which the South Africans used in carrying out their attack on Matola, was supplied by (Alfido Chivite) to Louis Ollivier, who channelled it to the CIA. Louis Ollivier was one of the CIA agents expelled from our country for involvement in subversion against the Mozambique Government. He was carrying out his espionage activities under the cover of the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, where he was second secretary.

The ex-captain of the Mozambique armed forces, (Alfido Chivite), was recruited by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, in 1979. At the time, the said traitor was in charge of important tasks on the FPLM general staff. In the same year, (Alfido Chivite) was introduced to the then CIA network chief in Maputo, (James Badwell Smith Jr), by another agent, ex-capt Pedro (Chiquinela) Magaia. From 1979 onwards (Alfido Chivite) supplied information on military secrets to the CIA as well as lists of military equipment belonging to ZANU and ZAPU, the movements which were then fighting the illegal regime of Ian Smith.

CUBAN EMBASSY IN MAPUTO DENIES U.S. ACCUSATION

LD061944 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 6 Mar 81 EA

[Excerpt] The Cuban Embassy in Maputo has denied the accusation made by the U.S. State Department that Cuba was involved in the Mozambique decision to expel four CIA agents from the national territory. The U.S. State Department mentioned in a communique an alleged confrontation between Cuban officials and a certain number of officials from the U.S. Embassy in Mozambique. It went on to say that the department further tried to associate the expulsion of the CIA agents with the forthcoming visit of a large number of Cubans to Maputo.

U.S. VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT EXPULSION OF DIPLOMATS

LD061846 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 6 Mar 81 EA

[Text] A group of American volunteers working in our country will send a letter to U.S. President Ronald Reagan in which they will express their support for the measures taken by the Mozambique Government on the expulsion of CIA agents working under cover in the American Embassy in Maputo. The letter says that Mozambique became a target of CIA action owing to the support given to the liberation movements in Southern Africa. The letter ends with a protest against the Reagan Administration's intensification of aid to racist and repressive governments in Africa and Latin America and urges the North American President to understand the futility of giving aid to regimes which are not recognized internally or internationally as truly representative (?of their people).

NAMIBIA

SWAPO OFFICIAL ON LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN WEST

LD062020 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 6 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--SWAPO has said that it has lost confidence in the five Western countries dealing with the Namibian independence problem because they are working against the wishes of the Namibian people. The SWAPO secretary for foreign affairs, Ndugu (Peter Mashehange), said Western countries have been cooperating with the oppressive regime in South Africa while pretending to be working for Namibia's independence. The five Western countries dealing with the Namibian independence problem are Britain, the United States, Canada, France and West Germany.

Ndugu (Mashehange) was speaking at Dar es Saalam airport on his arrival from Addis Ababa where he attended the OAU foreign ministers conference. Earlier, he also attended the nonaligned foreign ministers conference in New Delhi. He said both conferences had agreed on the need for SWAPO to be given increased military assistance. Ndugu (Mashehange) said both conferences had agreed that the United Nations must support SWAPO fully in intensifying the liberation struggle. He emphasized that liberation through the barrel of a gun had become the main duty of SWAPO. He added that there is room for attaining independence through talks, the failure of which, however, would make inevitable the intensification of the armed struggle.

On the threat by Western countries to oppose in the Security Council any attempt to impose a mandatory trade embargo on South Africa, he said the people of Namibia had decided to fight to the end.

SAM NUJOMA ARRIVES IN BUCHAREST FOR VISIT

For Bucharest reportage on the visit to Romania by SWAPO Chairman Sam Nujoma, president his meeting with President Ceausescu, press conference and departure, see the Romania section of 5 and 9 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER SCORES UN'S DOUBLE STANDARDS

LD061148 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Mar 81

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says the presidency of the United Nations General Assembly by Baon von Wechmar of West Germany is a mockery of justice. He said South Africa this week had again seen the application of double standards by the United Nations.

Opening a new highway on the south coast, Mr Botha said such actions would not prevent South Africa from dealing justly with all the people of South-West Africa. South-West Africa would not follow the path of chaos being advocated by the majority at the United Nations.

FOREIGN MINISTER'S LETTER PROTESTS UN TREATMENT

LD070608 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, has written to the United Nations Secretary General Dr Waldheim to protest against the treatment of the South African delegation during the debate on South-West Africa earlier, this week. In his letter which has been released in Pretoria, Mr Botha calls the refusal of the president of the General Assembly to allow the delegation to address the assembly on a point of order a manifest violation of the UN Charter. The minister says the action of the president, Baron Ruedige von Wechmar of West Germany was arbitrary and irregular. The incident occurred when the South African delegation tried to take up its seat in the General Assembly to state its case in the debate.

Mr Botha said his government has no intention of ignoring the incident but places on record its firm condemnation of its blatant illegality which makes a mockery of any UN claims to be a responsible organization commanding respect. The lamentable failures will remain a blot on its reputation. Mr Botha has also protested against the refusal of the conference clerk to put South Africa's name on the list of speakers for the debate. He points out that no member of the secretary general's staff has the right to deny a member state the right to which it is entitled in terms of the charter and the ruling of procedure. Mr Botha has asked Dr Waldheim what steps he intends to rectify the matter and to prevent a recurrence. He has also requested that his letter be distributed as an official document.

RAIL TRAFFIC TO MOZAMBIQUE TOTALLY SUSPENDED

LD071054 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 7 Mar 81

[Text] The South African Railways have stopped traffic to Maputo because its rolling stock (?is not being) returned from Mozambique fast enough. The Mozambique railway authorities (?stated earlier) [words indistinct] that they could not handle only coal and [words indistinct]. South Africa's rolling stock is on loan to countries (?such as) Zimbabwe which is experiencing shortage, and many wagons and deployed outside the country to carry cargoes to neighboring states.

Maputo Report

LD072026 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 7 Mar 81 EA

[Text] South Africa has clamped a total ban on rail traffic to Mozambique. It has also declared a similar embargo on Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana, except for traffic carrying urgent or perishable goods.

The South African decision was made known to Mozambique railways, CFM, on Tuesday. Senior CFM officials told the Mozambique news agency that the embargo is in violation of an agreement between the CFM and South African Railways signed in February 1979.

The same officials went on to say that this violation of the agreement is the culmination of a year's diversion of rail traffic from Maputo port to South African ports.

They noted, however, that the South African decision did not come as a surprise because it is part of an offensive against Maputo and Matola ports. This offensive was launched immediately following the independence of Zimbabwe in April last year.

South African Railways officials say that the embargo was decided upon because the CFM has been slow in returning wagons which are on the Mozambique side of the border. South African Railways also said that they would resume traffic only when the 3,300 South African wagons now in Mozambique have been returned or the number on Mozambique soil has been reduced to 1,800.

Other CFM officials told the Mozambique news agency, AIM, that on 16 February this year Mozambique and South African Railways held a meeting in Maputo at which they agreed on a program to return the wagons in 6 days. However the number of wagons to be returned was not decided upon. CFM officials also told AIM that CFM and South African Railways agreed at the meeting that South African Railways should make certain preparations on the South African side. This, however, did not happen.

Rail Spokesman's Explanation

LD081147 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Mar 81

[Text] A spokesman for South African Railways says there is no truth in an allegation by Mozambique that the embargo placed by South Africa on Wednesday on the of certain goods to Mozambique is a violation of an agreement between the railways of the two countries. It was reported this morning that Mozambican officials had told the Mozambique press agency that the embargo was part of South African offensive against Mozambican ports. The officials were also reported to have said that trucks destined for Mozambique had instead been sent to the South African ports of Durban and Richard's Bay.

A railway spokesman in Johannesburg said that no traditional traffic to Mozambique had been diverted to South African ports. The spokesman said that the embargo had been introduced only because South Africa's railway trucks were not returned quickly enough from Mozambique. Mozambique railways were not able to return the trucks in good time. In fact, Mozambique Railways had asked for certain exports from South Africa to be held back because it had difficulty in handling the traffic.

According to the reports from Maputo, the Mozambique officials said the embargo also affected Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana. South African Railways pointed out that Zimbabwe had also asked for some goods to be held back because of handling difficulties in Zimbabwe. This type of embargo was nothing new and was introduced from time to time, depending on the traffic between South Africa and these countries.

ZIMBABWE

MINISTER REQUESTS MORE AID FROM UNITED KINGDOM

LD061315 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 6 Mar 81 p 4

[Michael Farr report: "Zimbabwe Asks Britain for Cash 'To Avoid Chaos'"]

[Text] Zimbabwe could drift into political chaos unless the international community, led by Britain, gives the former British colony a massive injection of funds, said Dr Bernard Chizero, minister of economic planning and development in the Mugabe government.

"The world will not benefit from the political chaos which could result," he said.

Dr Chizero arrived in London yesterday to brief Lord Soames and other British Government officials on the latest preparations for this month's donors' conference in Salisbury.

A total of 46 countries and 12 international organisations have been invited, which Zimbabwe hopes will result in total contributions of 1,600 million pounds in aid toward a three-year reconstruction and development programme.

The five-day conference begins on March 23 and the British delegation will be led by Lord Soames, who as the last governor of Rhodesia steered the country to independence last year.

Dr Chizero, a former deputy general secretary of the United Nations Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD), said that in the 11 months since independence only 160 million pounds in aid had been pledged to Zimbabwe by the international community of which Britain with 75 million pounds had contributed the lion's share.

This was inadequate, the minister said. "The British were prompt enough, but the feeling shared generally in Zimbabwe is that they have given far too little.

"The United Kingdom could and should have done more.

"We think this is an international issue, in which Britain should give a lead--both morally and in terms of quantity," he said.

He pointed out that since the international community imposed sanctions on Rhodesia, and lifted them on Zimbabwe gaining independence, it "should now offer a more positive response."

He also suggested that on account of the close historical and social links between the two countries, Britain stood to benefit most from a prosperous Zimbabwe.

"If we are not given enough aid, the ties will weaken," he said.

He likened Zimbabwe's plea to the Marshall Plan in Europe after the 1939-45 war. "What we need is a once and for all injection of funds to get us back on the rails. "Zimbabwe's success would have tremendously salutary effect on southern Africa," he added.

"It would prove the possibility of building on a nonracial society. But the experiment of non-racialism may not succeed unless we can transform quickly the lives of the majority of poor Zimbabweans.

"We want to lift the standards of living of the poor majority and not reduce those of the rich minority. We want to level upwards said Dr Chizero.

MINISTER COMMENTS ON FIRST YEAR OF BLACK RULE

LD051317 Paris LE CONTINENT in French 27 Feb 81 p 2

[Suzanne Cronje interview with Zimbabwe Local Government and Housing Minister Eddison Zvobgo: "There is a Responsible Government in Our Country Which Wants To Do Its Work"--date and place not given]

[Text] The prophets of doom who predicted disaster for Zimbabwe, scarcely 1 year ago got nothing for their trouble. This is the view expressed in an interview given to us by Eddison Zvobgo, local government and housing minister and former Patriotic Front spokesman at the Lancaster House constitutional conference.

Mr Zvobgo is delighted by the discomfiture of the "experts" on examining the press file on events in his country since independence.

"They said there would be civil war. It did not and will not happen," he stated categorically. "They said the whites would flee in their pajamas as soon as the patriots' election victory was announced last year. The whites are still there. I recently asked a meeting of white citizens: How has the ZANU (the prime minister's party) government changed your lives? They replied that it had not."

Mr Zvobgo stressed that private ownership has been respected. "Take the example of the press, which we were accused of gagging. What really happened? The South Africans wanted to sell their shares in our newspapers and we bought them. That is all. The same is true of Rhobank, one of the country's biggest financial institutions. The South Africans wanted to withdraw from it and we agreed. We did not force anybody to sell. We did not nationalize anything. But if somebody in a sector which we regard as strategic wishes to sell his business, we have no hesitation in buying because we believe in collective ownership."

Discussing the clashes between the prime minister's supporters and the Zimbabwe people's revolutionary army, the former guerrilla army loyal to minister without portfolio Joshua Nkomo, Mr Zvobgo recalled that there are always troubles following a war.

"After the end of the Vietnam war there was a sharp increase in crime in the United States, and hundreds of former soldiers became crooks. Did anybody say that the United States was therefore an unstable country?" He immediately pointed out that civilians had not been involved in the recent clashes and that the headquarters of the parties and former armies and the national army and government succeeded in gaining control of the situation very quickly. Events proved that the authorities had the situation firmly in control. "The scene is set for the conference of countries which wish to aid our development," he said.

With regard to the land question, Mr Zvobgo stated that it has on no occasion been necessary to expropriate land from the white farmers, who own more than 40 percent of the country's cultivable land. There is, he said, so much unused land that it is not necessary to implement the "law on compulsory acquisition." When peasants settled on unoccupied land, the government had given them its permission to do so. Mr Zvobgo ended by pointing to achievements in the education sphere, in which 87 percent of the children who completed primary school education have been accepted into secondary schools instead of the expected 18.7 percent.

BRIEFS

NEW APPOINTMENTS--The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, announced today that the president, the honorable Canaan Banana, has approved the appointment of Comrade (Maboringo Murifi) as secretary to the Ministry of Labor and Social Services with effect from 23 March. Comrade (Murifi) will succeed Mr (M.J. Thompsom), who has been appointed chairman of the Public Services Commission. [Excerpts] [Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 6 Mar 81 CA]